

Tens of thousands at South Africa rally

Freed ANC leader addresses cheering crowd

BY RONI McCANN

The top item on the evening news featured footage of the 80,000 anti-apartheid protesters who filled a stadium outside Soweto, South Africa, and cheered the recent release of seven African National Congress leaders.

The evening news in South Africa that is.

In a massive show of defiance, the tens of thousands gathered on October 29 for a National Welcome Back Rally. Members of the National Reception Committee, set up by the Mass Democratic Movement to welcome freed ANC leaders, said it was the first rally of ANC leaders in nearly 30 years.

The black, green, and yellow flag of the banned liberation organization and red flag of the South African Communist Party flanked a banner declaring, "The ANC lives — the ANC leads" and formed the backdrop to the stage.

National Union of Mineworkers President Cyril Ramaphosa opened the rally saying, "The ANC is among us and the ANC leadership is going to speak to us."

ANC at center stage

Recently released ANC leader Walter Sisulu gave the keynote address. He began by saluting all those involved in the struggle against apartheid. "We salute, in particular, the rank-and-file membership of the ANC for earning our organization the mantle of leader of the South African struggle."

Sisulu continued with tributes to the United Democratic Front, students, religious organizations, and others. "We salute the Congress of South African Trade Unions for



Afrapix-Impact Visuals/Eric Miller

Recently released African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu gave keynote address at October 29 rally of 80,000 in Soweto. At left, Albertina Sisulu, head of United Democratic Front.

organizing workers on a scale unequalled in the entire history of our struggle."

The ANC leader paid tribute to fighters internationally and the role played by the

Frontline States. He mentioned presidents and leaders of African nations such as Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola and Kenneth

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Prochoice fighters head for nat'l action

BY SUSAN LaMONT

More than 20,000 abortion rights supporters from every county in Ohio converged on the state capitol in Columbus October 29 to demand "Keep choice in our house, not the State House."

A majority of protesters were young people from Ohio campuses. Antioch College, a small school in Yellow Springs, brought 600 students to the action. Many marchers had also been mobilized by Planned Parenthood and National Organization for Women chapters.

NOW national President Molly Yard spoke to the rally, along with Gov. Richard Celeste and U.S. Sen. Howard Metzenbaum. Yard urged participation in the November 12 Mobilization for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. It was clear that many demonstrators were already planning to attend the national action.

The November 12 mobilization was called by NOW after the July 3 U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding Missouri's restrictive anti-abortion law, which includes a ban on abortions being performed in public hospitals and other publicly funded facilities.

"No woman of the United States will accept bondage to compulsory pregnancy," said Yard in the call for the November 12 action. "We will never settle for access to abortion for well-to-do women but deny that right to poor women. Nor will we allow some states to deny the right to abortion while others support abortion rights."

"We must say to the Supreme Court and to the political leadership of this country, 'The right to abortion is a constitutional right, and therefore it is a national issue, not a states rights issue.'"

up to come, Avril noted.

A majority of the 1.6 million abortions performed in the United States each year are on women 18 to 24 years old.

In recent weeks, state legislatures in Florida, Illinois, and Minnesota, along with the governor of Texas, have blocked proposals to consider anti-abortion proposals at special legislative sessions.

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Nicaragua gov't suspends cease-fire

BY JUDY WHITE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government issued a communiqué November 1 announcing suspension of the unilateral cease-fire that ended offensive operations by Nicaraguan troops against the contras in March 1988.

It stated, "The government of the Republic of Nicaragua, which has been working intensely to promote peace, denounces before national and international public opinion the

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intensification in the last 20 days of the infiltration of mercenary forces from their bases on Honduran soil.

"During the last three weeks more than 1,100 mercenaries have penetrated the territory of our nation," the statement continued. "Taking advantage of the cease-fire unilaterally declared by the government of Nicaragua, they utilize the so-called 'humanitarian aid' approved by the U.S. Congress to carry out their criminal acts."

Ortega's statement

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega had first stated that the cease-fire would not be renewed at an October 28 news conference in Costa Rica. The Nicaraguan president was attending a meeting of Latin American and North American heads of state called by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

On the following day, Ortega back-stepped from this position. During a speech in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, he said his announcement had "touched a wasps' nest" at the Costa Rica conference. He said the Nicaraguan government would make intensive efforts to arrange continuation of the cease-fire through talks with other Central American governments.

The November 1 communiqué listed the special steps the Nicaraguan government has been taking to bring peace to the country and insure the success of the February 1990 elections here. These include a campaign to mobilize international support for the peace process, an appeal to the U.S. government to respect the moves for peace and the smooth

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Vote Socialist Workers Party on November 7

This year 37 candidates of the Socialist Workers Party have been campaigning in 24 cities across the country, from Greensboro, North Carolina, to Price, Utah.

The socialist candidates have spoken at scores of public meetings and demonstrations, been interviewed by newspapers and radio stations, and appeared on television. In 1989 municipal elections and the race for

are all problems caused by the workings of capitalism. Under this system, they explain, a tiny class of superrich families, not the immense majority of working people, own and control the vast productive resources of society. From this economic power flows their control of the government.

A steady decline in the standard of living of workers, increasing poverty, and a general worsening of the conditions of life for millions of working people are what we can expect under capitalism. SWP candidates tell the unvarnished truth: capitalism cannot be reformed, and its rulers cannot solve the mounting problems workers face — nor are they interested in doing so. The capitalist system cannot be made to work for the benefit of the working class.

The opposite is the case. The socialist candidates explain that conditions are going to get worse — much, much worse as the economy proves to be less stable and more vulnerable. Any partial crisis, like another

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Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
James Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York.

PLO opposes Washington's move to sell Israeli election scheme

BY HARRY RING

The Israeli government has stymied moves by Washington to dress up an Israeli voting plan aimed at putting a halt to the Palestinian uprising.

Meanwhile, the Palestine Liberation Organization termed the U.S. government's moves a maneuver on behalf of the Israeli regime.

Last spring, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir put forward a "peace" plan under which Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would go to the polls to select representatives to negotiate some form of limited self-administration under continued Israeli military rule.

The Shamir plan would exclude any discussion of Palestinian self-determination, bar members or supporters of the PLO from participating in the talks, and prevent all Palestinians outside the West Bank and Gaza from voting.

The proposition found no takers among the Palestinian people, so Washington moved in to make it more palatable.

Secretary of State James Baker proposed a meeting between Washington and representatives of the Israeli and Egyptian governments. The stated aim would be to resolve the issue of the makeup of the Palestinian negotiating team proposed in the Shamir plan.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak then suggested that such a meeting be held in Cairo. He further suggested that the Shamir plan include concessions on the issue of

which Palestinians would be eligible to vote for, or serve on, a Palestinian voting team.

Rejecting the U.S.-Egyptian approach, Shamir asserted that Washington was trying to get him to negotiate with the PLO and, also, to get Israel out of Gaza and the West Bank.

Secretary of State Baker responded, "Our goal all along has been to try to assist in the implementation of the Shamir initiative. There is no other proposal or initiative that we are working with."

Until the Palestinian uprising was under way, Washington, like the Israeli regime, refused to negotiate with the PLO.

Since then it has held discussions with the PLO, but remains adamant in its opposition to the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

PLO's position

PLO objection to the U.S. government's moves came October 17 after a two-day session of its Central Council.

A spokesperson said the meeting registered "clear-cut and overwhelming opposition" to Washington's moves.

"The general consensus," he said, "is that the Baker proposals are a new formula to sell the Shamir plan."

The council reiterated its call for an international conference that would set the framework for the creation of an independent Palestinian state. It urged Arab governments not to support proposals that are counter to this.

This theme was emphasized earlier by PLO leader Yassir Arafat in an October 10 interview with several Arab papers.

Arafat noted that Egyptian President Mubarak, in putting forward his ideas on the matter, had said they were "suggestions, not an initiative or alternative to anything."

An English translation of the Arafat interview was published in the October 16 English-language edition of the Jerusalem paper *al-Fajr*.

Asked what his position would be on a U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian meeting, Arafat responded, "We do not have any business in an Egyptian-American-Israeli dialogue."

"They have a right to meet and that is their business," he added.

"But," he stressed, "if the issue concerns the Palestinian leadership, then let it be clear that I am the party that speaks in the name of the Palestinian people."

He noted that more than once Mubarak had stated that he did not represent and could not speak for the Palestinian people.

"He told them," Arafat said, "you have the PLO. So go and talk to it."

Arafat added, "I thanked President Mubarak for this particular stand."

Commenting on the Baker plan, the PLO leader said, "The elections are an American scheme agreed upon with Shamir. The U.S.

administration should understand that we are not stupid or naive and that we will not be fooled."

Shevardnadze proposal

Meanwhile the British paper the *Guardian* reported earlier that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had proposed that Israel and the PLO hold direct talks in Moscow.

The *Guardian* reported September 28 that Shevardnadze made the proposal to his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Arens, at a private meeting at the United Nations.

Moscow had previously supported the PLO plan for an international conference to resolve the Mideast conflict, but, according to the *Guardian*, the Soviet foreign minister said that this was no longer an immediate aim.

The paper reported that Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union could see "reasonable elements" in the Shamir plan and Mubarak's suggestions as well.

Arens, the Israeli representative, said the talks with the Soviet foreign minister were "very friendly" and that they had decided to continue meeting.

On October 17 the Soviet delegation to the UN abstained on a vote to expel Israel from the UN General Assembly.

Previously, the Soviet delegation had voted in favor of expelling Israel. The motion



Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat

has been made yearly on the basis that the Israeli refusal to end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza violates the UN Charter.

This year, 37 countries voted for the expulsion motion. This included all the Arab states except Egypt, as well as Angola, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Vietnam, and Ghana.

A Soviet representative said the abstention did not constitute approval of Israeli policy, but only the Soviet belief that all countries should hold UN membership.

Michigan steelworkers strike against concession demands

BY SAM FARLEY

SOUTH LYON, Mich. — Some 320 steelworkers who work for the Michigan Seamless Tube company here have been on strike for two months.

The production and maintenance workers are members of United Steelworkers Local 1900. They voted by a 95 percent majority to walk out on September 1 after the company demanded a slash in pension benefits, medical insurance that would not kick in any payments for a family until \$2,400 in bills were rung up, elimination of sick leave, and the elimination of departmental incentives that could easily total \$60 a week for a worker.

The company produces tubing for the automotive industry, refineries, and utilities. It is owned by the Quanex corporation of Houston.

The company obtained wage and benefit concessions from the union in 1983 and again in 1986, contending the takebacks were needed to boost low profits. Workers at the plant have not had a wage increase for nine years.

Because of these concessions the company

chalked up massive profits. "They spent \$200 million in the past year alone on plant improvements and buyouts," one picket noted.

"We were willing to make concessions when the company was in trouble," another striker said, "but this is ridiculous."

Threatened with dismissal by Quanex, secretaries and other office workers were told to bring bedrolls and blankets to work the day after the strike began. The company told them to "be prepared to stay for three days."

In an attempt to portray the strikers as potentially violent the company had a helicopter airlift food to the nonunion employees the following day.

Quanex then obtained a court injunction limiting the number of pickets and forcing the union to post a \$10,000 "peace bond."

Every member of the local is honoring the picket line. Many workers picket regularly, even though only several hours a week is required to receive strike benefits.

"Our membership is united and we are hurting them badly," Local 1900 President Robert Martin explained. "I am confident we can win this strike."

Pro-Palestinian editor released from Israeli prison

JERUSALEM — Michal Schwartz, an editor of *Way of the Spark*, was released from prison October 26 after serving her full 18-month term.

She and three other editors of the paper were imprisoned for their solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle. They were charged with membership in an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is outlawed in Israel.

On the basis of time off for good behavior, Schwartz should have been released six months ago, but authorities refused to grant parole.

On her release, Schwartz declared she would continue to fight for a just peace, based on the creation of an independent Palestinian state. She sent special greetings to the imprisoned Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan.

Assaf Adiv is due for release November 11, while Yacov Ben Efrat continues to serve a 30-month term. The fourth defendant, Ronie Ben Efrat, was released after nine months.

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Forced overtime big issue in Boeing strike

BY CONNIE ALLEN
AND JOHN CHARBONNET

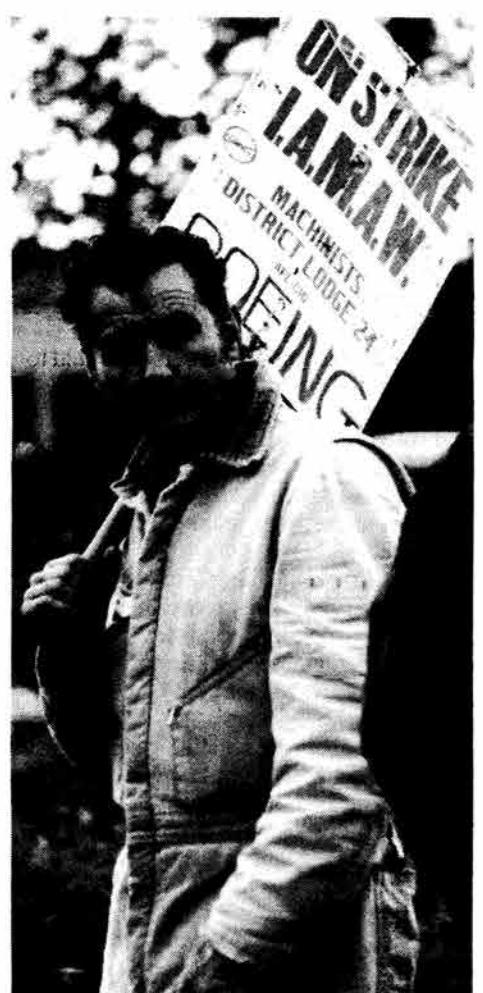
PORTLAND, Ore. — For many of the 58,000 workers on strike at Boeing, forced overtime is the issue they feel most strongly about. The workers — members of the International Association of Machinists — have been on strike against the world's largest airplane manufacturer for a month.

In addition to the demand to roll back extensive overtime they are attempting to recoup some of the wages and benefits given up over the past six years.

"A lot of families have fallen apart," said Doug Kuhne, on the picket line here. "A lot of people have started drinking." Before the strike, thousands of workers at the huge Boeing 747 and 767 jet assembly complex in Everett, Washington; the Boeing Military Airplanes facility in Wichita, Kansas; and the parts plant in Portland were forced to work as much as 200 hours of overtime every three months — four times the national average. This meant working 12-hour days, seven days a week, for four consecutive weekends to fill the largest production orders in Boeing's history.

"Overtime Improvement — what a joke," read one handmade picket sign at the Portland plant. The rejected final offer by the company proposed "overtime improvement": reducing the maximum of forced overtime to 160 hours in a quarter, and three consecutive weekends.

"Three years I've been working 33 straight days on and one weekend off, and then sometimes you have to fight to get that weekend off," said striker Dennis Strader. "If we're working this much, we want some more



Militant/K.C. Ellis
Machinist on picket line in Portland. Workers were forced to work six- and seven-day weeks.

3,000 Machinists' backers in Wichita protest attack on union offices

BY KEVIN SHAY

WICHITA, Kan. — Chants of "What time is it? Strike time!" rang out as 3,000 Machinist union members and supporters gathered for a rally here October 23. Some 12,000 members of International Association of Machinists District Lodge 70 are on strike at Boeing Military Airplanes, along with 46,000 other Boeing workers in Seattle and Portland, Oregon.

IAM President George Kourpias spoke at the rally, which was held two days after a drive-by shooting damaged the strike headquarters.

The attack took place shortly after 2:00 a.m. October 21, said acting strike coordinator Harold Stocking. Three men in a pickup truck fired a shotgun blast as they drove by the strike headquarters. They were arrested a short distance away.

money. We're producing the planes, we're trying to meet their schedule."

Serious injuries, crossed wires

The most popular union T-shirt worn in the Portland plant before the strike read, "No mandatory overtime — on the line in '89." Two months before the contract expired, the whole Portland plant was placed on a mandatory six-day workweek. Some departments worked even more. Within weeks there was a noticeable rise in serious injuries and heart attacks among older workers.

"Overtime should be voluntary," says an IAM contract leaflet. "You should have the right to refuse overtime *without fear of reprisal*. You are a person — not a machine!"

Forced overtime has hit young workers and women with families particularly hard. Workers at Boeing have on the average only six years at the company, the result of extensive hiring in recent years.

This new generation of workers has surprised the company with its solidarity and ardent support for the strike.

Boeing has tried to ignore the overtime issue in its public statements. An October 11 letter to strikers from Boeing Chairman Frank Shrontz did not even mention the overtime issue.

The union has issued two new strike leaflets about overtime. "What kind of world do we want for ourselves and our children?" asks one. "A world where wages are frozen and profits soar? A world where Mom and Dad work around the clock and never see the kids? A world where people retire on skimpy benefits after working years for a rich corporation?"

'Give unemployed some of our overtime'

Strikers point out that Boeing's massive overtime schedule allows them to get by with hiring fewer workers. "There's all these people out of jobs," says striker Phil Perry. "Let's give them some of our overtime. Boeing should hire and train them." Large areas of the Pacific Northwest have high unemployment rates.

"The key issue for a lot of people, including myself, is mandatory overtime," said

Bonuses drive down wages

One of the demands of the Boeing strikers is for yearly wage increases instead of year-end bonuses.

The "bonus" is a lump-sum payment of a certain percentage of a worker's yearly income.

Bonuses are one form of the concessions forced on workers during the early 1980s. The employers, pleading poverty, were able to impose lower wages, worsening working conditions, and a longer working day on millions of workers.

A quick look at the bonus system, and Boeing's use of it, illustrates the point.

The company has substituted bonuses for pay increases since 1983. While a pioneer in this practice, 42 percent of workers covered by major union contracts are now hooked into the bonus setup.

"There is a broad trend among manufacturers away from raises and toward tying compensation to improvements in productivity and a company's profitability," said Jerry Jasinski, executive vice-president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Boeing's Chairman Frank Shrontz calls the company's goal of minimizing raises and substituting bonuses and profit

sharing a "flexible pay" system. Another company executive said, "There is a long-term process for dealing with the Machinists union that involves flexible pay, but you just don't achieve it overnight."

Why is big business so interested in this scheme?

Literature produced by the International Association of Machinists points to the answer.

Pay raises are folded into the base pay increasing hourly wages each year. In addition, pay raises count toward pensions, vacation and sick pay, and overtime rates. Bonuses do none of this.

The sum of the annual bonuses received by Boeing workers over the past six years was 31 percent of a single year's wages, or \$7,738 for a production worker making \$12 an hour. If the 31 percent had been in the form of wage increases folded into the base rate, an additional \$18,000 would have been earned by the Machinists members during the period.

These figures show why Boeing and other companies prefer the bonus system. Bonuses drive down worker's wages and increase company profits.

IAM steward Marlin McKay. "If a company's going to work the kind of overtime that this company has worked, maybe they ought to look at hiring some more people and buying some more equipment."

IAM International President George Kourpias toured the Boeing picket line in Portland October 24. To loud cheers and applause, he told workers to keep pressing Boeing to end mandatory overtime. "We can beat Boeing, we can win this strike," he said.

Two striking Eastern workers came to show their support and tell Boeing workers about their continued fight. Jack Elliot, a

striking flight attendant, was on the picket line the first night of the Boeing strike and has walked the line several times since.

During his Pacific Northwest tour, Kourpias said the IAM is prepared to pay strike benefits "for as long as it takes," noting that the 850,000-member union has a strike fund of \$95 million.

A federal mediator called Boeing and IAM negotiators together October 30 for the first joint meeting since the strike began.

Connie Allen and John Charbonnet are members of IAM Local 63, on strike at Boeing in Portland.

Workers in Britain strike for 35-hour week

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — Union leaders have decided to extend a strike called to shorten the workweek from 39 to 35 hours at two British Aerospace plants and a Rolls Royce engine plant. The call to 7,000 workers at the three factories to continue the action begun October 30 received an overwhelmingly positive response.

When four workers out of 2,300 employed at the plant crossed the picket line at the British Aerospace (BAe) plant in Preston, they faced mass pickets. Even the white collar staff there have now joined the action, although they are already on a 37-hour week. Support from the 2,000 workers at the other BAe plant at Chester and the Rolls Royce Hillington plant near Glasgow is also solid.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union has decided to take two further steps. They have set in motion plans to call out the rest of the

23,000 workers who voted for strike action. This will involve four more factories and extend the action to two other companies. They are also beginning to consult workers at plants in four more companies to vote to join the action.

Meanwhile, in a separate action, workers at Vauxhall (General Motors) have begun a series of one-day strikes in pursuit of their own demands, which include the call for a 35-hour week. Management has offered a 6.5 percent wage increase, which is well below the rate of inflation, and no reduction in hours.

The firms currently being struck make

parts for the aerospace industry. Rolls Royce, Hillington, makes parts for Boeing 747 engines, among other things.

The strike against Boeing in three U.S. cities where workers are fighting against mandatory overtime is undermining British management's attempts to use this as an argument against workers here.

Similarly, the engineering union IG Metall, representing 3 million workers in West Germany, has begun an overtime ban in pursuit of its demand for a 35-hour week. Starting the same day as the British strikes, this has also boosted the action in Britain.

Minn. strike backer dies in jail

BY DENISE McINERNEY

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Roger Hell, a supporter of striking workers in International Falls, Minnesota, died October 30 in the Koochiching County jail.

Union construction workers went on strike in International Falls on July 18 after Boise Cascade, a major paper manufacturer, hired the union-busting outfit BE&K as general contractor for a \$535 million expansion project.

On September 9 the scab-housing camp was overrun by unionists and supporters after they were provoked by security guards. The company claimed millions of dollars in damages. Since then police have arrested and jailed more than 30 strikers, supporters, and union activists.

Hell was arrested October 27, along with his cousin, striker Terry Hell, in connection with the attempted bombing of a BE&K scab's house.

The county coroner claims that Roger Hell committed suicide by tying a strip of cloth around his neck tight enough to restrict the supply of blood to his brain until he lost consciousness and died.

Attorney Steve Nelson, who represents Hell's family, stated that "the sheriff may

have been negligent or culpable in allowing this to happen." Authorities may have "created a situation that drove him to that level of despair."

Some strike supporters expressed surprise and skepticism that Hell took his own life. His death is being investigated by the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

In our next issue . . .

**Firstrhand coverage
from Namibia**

**Interview with
ANC leader**

News from *Militant* reporter Selva Nebbia, who is in Namibia for three weeks covering the November 7 elections.

Also, an interview with African National Congress Chief Representative to the United States Lindiwe Mabuza.

Cuban painter begins U.S. speaking tour

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Cuban artist Aldo Soler has been warmly welcomed in Newark, New Jersey, and Los Angeles since he began a speaking tour of several U.S. cities.

A member of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, Soler was invited by the Pathfinder Mural Project to paint the portraits of Cuban President Fidel Castro and of Karl Marx, one of the founders of the international socialist movement. The portraits on the mural were completed last month before he began his tour.

More than 200 turned out for a "Conversation on Contemporary Cuban Art," with Soler on October 21 at Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles. The sponsors of the event, which was organized by the Pathfinder Mural Project, included the local chapters of the Venceremos Brigade, African National Congress of South Africa, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, and the Broad Movement in Solidarity with El Salvador.

Speaking on the program with Soler was Laurein Alexandre, a leader of the L.A. Coalition for Free Travel and Trade in Ideas. Alexandre described the coalition's efforts to battle U.S. government restrictions on travel to Cuba, as well as Washington's frequent denials of visas to Cubans and others who wish to visit the United States.

The next day artists and others attended a reception for Soler at the Heritage Art Gallery. The gallery is owned by Benjamin Horowitz who for decades has been the agent for the work of noted Afro-American artist Charles White. The Heritage is currently showing a display of White's work on the 10th anniversary of his death.

Joining Horowitz in hosting the reception were White's widow, Fran, film director Nick Castle Jr., and professors David Kunzle and Schifra Goldman.

Several other artists who have contributed to the mural participated in the weekend's events, including Eva Cockcroft, Ian White, Marjon Hormozi, James Goodwin, and Mary Ann Schmidt. Also in attendance at the Heritage Gallery was Richard Wyatt, a prominent Afro-American muralist whose work Soler visited in Watts.

One topic that arose during the gatherings was a Cuban program known as "Art in the Factories." Soler explained that once a year

many Cuban artists go into factories where, for a month, they participate in factory production. Then, with the workers in the factory, the artist helps to create a piece of art, relying on materials normally used in the workplace. The art that is created remains in the factory for the enjoyment of the workers.

In the discussion at the Heritage one participant asked whether this wasn't "art by committee," and if the artist's work wasn't "contaminated" this way.

Soler disagreed, explaining that experiences such as these are where ideas and inspiration come from that fuel the artist's ability. Cuban artists, he said, see such opportunities as part of their responsibility to society.

During a radio interview on station KPFK's "Belize-Caribbean Pulse," Soler was questioned about last summer's trials of Cuban officers Arnaldo Ochoa and Antonio de la Guardia in which they and other officials were convicted of corruption and involvement with drug trafficking.

It is true, Soler replied, that Cuba had taken the sternest measures, including the death penalty in four of the cases. This was correct, he said, because Cuba "will not be a trampoline for drug traffic in the Caribbean." He noted that Cuba's overtures to the U.S. gov-

ernment to cooperate against drug trafficking had been rejected. These offers remain open, he said, and Cuba is committed to help stop the plague of drugs.

Meeting with Eastern strikers

On October 21 Soler also participated in a lunch meeting with three Eastern Airlines strikers, a coal miner visiting Los Angeles from southern Illinois to seek solidarity with the Pittston miners' strike, and several other unionists.

Before going to Los Angeles, Soler had been welcomed to Newark, New Jersey, by Christine Vogel, copresident of the Newark Arts Council. She hosted the Cuban artist at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Newark Public Library on October 16.

Mary Sue Sweeney, assistant director of Newark Museum, gave Soler a tour of the newly renovated art museum. Joan Lazar, executive director of the Newark Literacy Campaign, explained that studying Cuba's literacy drives had influenced her. Mayor Sharpe James also greeted Soler at the meeting.

Some of the participants at the celebration later walked across the park to the Aljira Gallery for a reception and a slideshow presentation by Soler on contemporary Cuban

art.

Zayid Muhammad of Frontline Artists chaired the program. "Cuba has been subject to a 30-year blockade," he explained. "The presence of our guest tonight represents a crack in that blockade."

"We owe a lot to Pathfinder for waging the fight to get Aldo here," Muhammad added. He encouraged everyone to sign a message welcoming Soler and calling for an end to U.S. legal obstacles to cultural exchange with Cuba.

The following afternoon Soler was hosted at Princeton University by the Dean of Students Office, Program of Visual Arts, Afro-American Studies Program, Program in Latin American Studies, and the Third World Center.

Soler's visit to Los Angeles was preceded by a trip to Southern California by Mural Fund Director Mark Severs. Severs spoke at three well-attended meetings in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Diego. Nearly \$1,000 was raised at these three events.

In Los Angeles some \$500 was raised at the Patriotic Hall meeting for the Soler tour.

Geoff Mirelowitz in Los Angeles and Candace Wagner in Newark contributed to this article.

Hungary hikes parts prices for Cuba's buses

The Cuban government will pay 20 percent more next year than it did in 1989 to obtain parts from Hungary for manufacturing buses. The increase will be 40 percent over a period of five years.

Cuba had planned to acquire parts for some 580 buses in 1990, but the price hike has reduced the expected number to 512. The Hungarian Ikarus buses that are assembled in Cuba are used in both urban and intercity transport. The chassis is Hungarian and the body Cuban.

According to a report in the October 1 *Granma Weekly Review*, published by the Communist Party of Cuba, Cuba's Transimport "was forced to accept the new exorbitant increase practically as an ultimatum." Hungary's Ikarus and Bus Exports Enterprises, *Granma* reported, "warned that there

were no other options and that unless the contract was signed then it wouldn't guarantee the delivery of supplies needed by the Cuban automotive industry for production in the first half of next year."

The contract only guarantees supplies for the first six months of 1990 and not for the entire year as the Cubans had expected.

Cuba accepted the unilateral change in Hungary's trade terms, *Granma* said, to avert an urban transportation crisis. Bus service in Havana has perennially faced difficulties, which have worsened in the last couple of years.

Earlier this year, the government decided on some measures to cope with the problem. They included accelerating production of buses in Cuba, improving conditions for workers in the industry, and building 8 to 10 new bus terminals to service and repair buses. The depots are being built with the help of voluntary labor organized in minibrigades.

Hungary's enterprises argued that the price increase was necessary because it no longer receives government help; the prices of its supplies have risen; and the interest rate Hungary's state bank charges them is higher than the interest Cuba pays Hungary's state credit agency.

Such a sudden and unilateral price increase, *Granma* stated, casts doubt on the economic effectiveness of cooperation between Cuba and Hungary that "has been in existence for years." The price increase

"would mean transferring to Cuba the cost increases experienced by the other country, thus virtually plunging such cooperation into a crisis."

Cuba has kept the price of its exports to Hungary stable, the Cuban CP publication noted, even though its own costs have risen sharply due to world inflation. "To be sure," *Granma* said, "Cuba's trade relations with Hungary at present are a far cry from what we Cubans view as fair practice between a developed socialist country and another, also socialist but belonging to the Third World and, therefore, less developed."

The Cuban newspaper continued, "How could we talk about 'mutual benefit' when the backward countries are forced to sell the raw materials that cost them so much sweat and suffering at the low prices prevailing on the world market and on the other hand buy the machines produced by the big automated factories at the high prices commanded on the world market?"

Cuban President Fidel Castro explained on July 26 that problems in obtaining supplies from "the socialist countries" would be among the growing economic difficulties Cubans could expect in the coming period. "We can't say with certainty," he warned, "that the supplies from the socialist camp that have been arriving here with the punctuality of a clock for nearly 30 years will continue to arrive with this same security and punctuality."

New York concert for a free Namibia



New York benefit for South West Africa People's Organisation featured well-known jazz musician Roy Ayers (second from left) and other artists. Some 500 people attended the October 28 concert at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Militant/Margrethe Siem

Activist: 'Convict Miami killer cop'

BY TONY THOMAS

MIAMI — "Get Black folks on the jury, don't move the trial, and hire a special prosecutor," Billy Hardeman, co-chair of People United for Justice, told a meeting here October 28.

People United for Justice is campaigning to convict Miami cop William Lozano for killing two Blacks, Clement Anthony Lloyd and Allan Blanchard, on January 16. Lozano's trial on two counts of manslaughter opened here October 23.

Overtown and Liberty City, Miami's two main Black communities, rose in rebellion for three days after the shooting. This was the fourth rebellion in the 1980s protesting the murder of Blacks by cops or the acquittal of cops charged with killing Blacks here.

The October 28 gathering that Hardeman addressed was sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum.

In previous trials, all-white juries, half-hearted prosecution, and moving the trial out of Miami secured acquittals for cops charged with murder.

People United has organized several public protests, including a small rally in Overtown on October 22, a picket at the Justice Building on the first day of the trial, and another picket scheduled at the Justice Building for November 3.

Hardeman was arrested for disturbing the peace at the October 23 picket when he tried to enter the Justice Building to attend the trial.

He explained that leaders of Miami's most prominent Black organizations and church leaders had urged him not to protest and to join the "Peace Campaign" launched by government, police, and big-business leaders to keep Miami quiet during and after the trial. The October 22 *Miami Herald* reported Miami Police Chief Perry Anderson's "peace plan" for the trial:

Keep the verdict secret for at least 24

Pathfinder mural to be dedicated Nov. 19

Work depicts working-class and revolutionary leaders around world

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — Started two years ago, the Pathfinder mural is just about finished. Supporters of this massive project have scheduled a November 19 dedication followed by celebration of its completion at the Westbeth Gallery a few blocks from the mural.

Several artists and supporters are busy working on the final details of the six-story collective art piece. They are adding the portraits of freedom fighters from Mexico, Colombia, the United States, Palestine, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

Painter and sculptor Carole Byard is finishing the portrait of Malcolm X. Alirio Vargas, having completed the portrait of Cuban independence fighter Antonio Maceo, is beginning a portrait of Camilo Torres, a leader of the struggle for Colombian independence in the early 19th century.

Soon a crew of supporters will cover the surface of the painted wall with a protective covering and take the scaffolding down.

"I like the way the mural was put up on the wall," said Eva Hamlin Miller in an interview here. "I'd like to see it when they take the scaffolding down," she added, expressing the sentiments of those involved on the project.

Miller, 78, came to New York having just completed a mural at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro that depicts the civil rights movement. She came to paint the portrait of John Brown on the Pathfinder mural.

An Afro-American artist, Miller played an important role in promoting the works of young Black artists in the South. She opened a gallery in North Carolina to exhibit their work.

"There were a lot of places where they could not get shown," Miller pointed out. "I did not limit the shows just to their paintings, but I put my emphasis on them. My main thrust was to put art in the areas of the Afro-American community and the Afro-American person."

Miller served as chairperson of the art departments at Tuskegee Institute, Bennett College, and Winston-Salem Teachers College. She was the first Afro-American art supervisor in the Greensboro city schools and an associate professor of art at A&T.

Speaking of her portrait of John Brown, Miller said, "I've always been interested in him. He was certainly a revolutionary."

Born in Connecticut in 1800, John Brown moved to Ohio where he became a farmer

and businessman. Like his father, he was an active abolitionist involved in the Underground Railroad, through which he helped many Blacks flee slavery.

In the 1850s he and his sons took an active part in a struggle to keep slavery out of Kansas, where they had gone to farm. There Brown led a local militia army and carried out guerrilla-type warfare against the Border Ruffians who were sent by proslavery forces to terrorize family farmers.

Hoping to inspire a slave insurrection in the South, Brown put together a plan for an armed raid into Southern slave territory. The strike was to take place in Harper's Ferry in what is now West Virginia, the site of a federal arsenal.

The Harper's Ferry raid was carried out Oct. 16, 1859. Brown led a group of 22 men, five of them Black, and took over the town. The raid did not spark the insurrection that Brown had hoped for and he and his band were soon surrounded by thousands of militia and federal troops. Brown was wounded and arrested with six others. They were tried and hanged in Charlestown, Virginia.

In a speech given 22 years after the Harper's Ferry raid, abolitionist Frederick Douglass said, "If John Brown did not end the war that ended slavery, he did at least, begin the war that ended slavery."

The portraits of Douglass and Harriet Tubman, also a prominent abolitionist leader, are on the Pathfinder mural.



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Artist Eva Hamlin Miller with the color study she used to paint abolitionist John Brown on the Pathfinder mural.

Marching for 'a world without borders'

The following article, "A mural for a world without borders" by Susana Pasternac, appeared in the October 22 Sunday edition of the New York Spanish-language daily *El Diario-La Prensa*. A photo display of artists painting on the Pathfinder mural accompanied the full-page feature. The translation is by the *Militant*.

It all started with a wall and the idea of a mural.

The wall — on the corner of West and Charles streets in Lower Manhattan — houses the printing machinery of Pathfinder publishers, which specializes in getting out the works of the great thinkers and fighters of the social causes of the world.

The idea was to cover the immense facade of the six-story wall with a gigantic fresco that would pay homage to the writings of these great world thinkers, whose works are published by Pathfinder.

Begun two years ago, the mural is practically finished, and the public in New York will soon be able to admire it in all its splendor upon completion in upcoming weeks.

A public ceremony to inaugurate the work will include a street festival, weather permitting, on November 19. However, the adventure is, in itself, invitation enough to go see the mural even if only to be part of watching the transformation beneath the busy brushes of the artists, who apply themselves diligently on the various levels of the vast scaffolding that covers the facade of the building.

The centerpiece is a great printing press with books and pamphlets coming off huge rolls of paper — works that speak about the exploitation of the workers and peasants of the whole world and that reveal the great plans of the struggle to abolish that exploitation. The portraits of great revolutionary leaders fall on the open pages of the books like leaves dropping in the wind.

Prominent artists from different countries have participated in this ambitious work. But they are not the only ones. Hundreds of lesser-known artists from New York and other states have come here for the express purpose of making a contribution, each one with a grain of sand necessary for the completion of this huge endeavor.

Among the completed portraits is that of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, jailed more than 25 years ago by the apartheid regime. The work was painted by South African artist Dumile Feni. Ricardo Carpani from Argentina took on the responsibility of fixing in the wall the features of revolutionary leader Che Guevara.

Nicaraguan revolutionaries Carlos Fonseca and Augusto César Sandino, by Nicara-

guan painter Arnaldo Guillén, also appear. Painter Aldo Soler Avila, a member of the National Union of Artists and Writers in Cuba, was especially invited to create Cuban leader Fidel Castro's face.

The mural begins to emerge as the huge portraits become visible among a crowd of men and women marching behind a banner that calls for "A world without borders."

And marching alongside José Martí for that world without borders are, among others, Puerto Rican fighter Albizu Campos, Farabundo Martí, Mahatma Gandhi, and Patrice Lumumba, as well as the revolutionary Mexican peasant Emiliano Zapata and martyred Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Mixed in among all of these figures are the faces of thousands of more or less anonymous fighters in the history of humanity. Because of the clarity of their goals and the stubbornness with which they pursued them, these men and women sacrificed their lives in the struggle for such diverse rights as the

eight-hour day and civil liberties, and against racism and oppression. The struggles of the workers' trade unions are represented by the exemplary fighter Mother Jones, among others. Flora Tristan, who in the 19th century had already engraved her name in the struggle for women's rights, is also there.

Figures as diverse as Camacho, Martin Luther King, Sitting Bull, and Túpac Amaru have also joined the march of notables painted on the giant fresco. Remembered as well, of course, are the mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who attracted to their cause the attention of the entire world with a heartrending cry demanding the return of their disappeared children.

The list is long, and it is impossible to name either every single one of the people immortalized in this work or those who have contributed to its painting. But this mural is already considered to be the most important collective work being painted in the United States today — without a doubt, a good reason to pay it a visit this weekend.

Contribute to the Pathfinder Fund

Pathfinder Press publishes writings and speeches by communist and working-class fighters such as Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Malcolm X, Maurice Bishop, Thomas Sankara, Farrell Dobbs, James P. Cannon, Nelson Mandela, Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Leon Trotsky.

A special effort has been urged to raise \$100,000 by November 1 in the \$150,000 fund that was launched by Pathfinder in August. Because of growing receptivity, Pathfinder needs funds right away to help reprint additional quantities of

some new books and pamphlets, including Malcolm X: The Last Speeches, of which 16,000 copies have already been shipped.

Even with increased sales, Pathfinder does not come close to covering costs without special contributions from supporters. Pathfinder needs your financial help to continue its ambitious publishing and promotion of revolutionary working-class literature.

So far \$94,600 has been collected. The deadline for completing the fund is December 1. Please contribute as generously as possible.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
 I wish to pledge \$ _____ toward the fund.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Province _____
Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Clip and send to Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF THE PATHFINDER MURAL



SUNDAY,
NOV. 19

Traducción al español
Traducción en français

DEDICATION AT MURAL SITE: 1:30PM
PATHFINDER BUILDING, CORNER OF
CHARLES AND WEST STREETS, MANHATTAN

BENEFIT PROGRAM: 3:00PM AT
WESTBETH GALLERY, 55 BETHUNE ST.
(3 BLOCKS NORTH OF MURAL)
DONATION: \$10; SPONSORED BY
THE PATHFINDER MURAL PROJECT

For more information, Pathfinder
Mural Project, 410 West St., New
York, N.Y. 10014. (212) 741-0690.

New York strikers salute fellow fighters at Boeing

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists members struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by flight attendants and pilots, the walkout crippled Eastern,

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

ern, grounding a big majority of its 1,040 prestrike daily flights.

Since July Eastern has been trying to restart operations. By early October it was scheduling 700 daily flights.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

More than 100 Eastern strikers at New York's LaGuardia Airport have signed a solidarity message to fellow Machinists union members on strike at Boeing in Seattle; Wichita, Kansas; and Portland, Oregon. The strikers signing include members of International Association of Machinists Local 1018, flight attendants, and pilots.

The message is addressed to "our 58,000 brothers and sisters at Boeing," and reads:

"After being on strike for over seven months at Eastern Airlines, we are inspired by the unity and strength of your strike.

"Along with the United Mine Workers of America, members of the IAM and other strikers around the country today are helping to write a new chapter in labor history.

"We know your strike will be a victorious one. This will be the best aid possible to both the Eastern and Pittston strikers, as well as to all other working people fighting for dignity and decent living conditions.

"As you continue keeping planes from being built, we will continue to keep them from being flown, maintained, and serviced."

A hectic five-day tour of Milwaukee by Eastern strikers ended in a rally and walk-through at Mitchell International Airport October 22. The rally and walk-through drew more than 100 strikers and supporters from 20 unions.

The touring Eastern strikers came from Kansas City, Chicago, and St. Paul, Minnesota. For three days they were joined by nine representatives from the United Mine Workers' strike at Pittston Coal company. There are no Eastern strikers organized out of Milwaukee, but Eastern has daily flights there.

The strikers divided into teams to cover the union gatherings, picket lines, and rallies they had been invited to — a total of 18 events. A Milwaukee County Labor Council (MCLC) rally drew 200 people from dozens of unions.

The strikers walked the picket line with more than 50 fellow IAM members at the John Deere plant in Horicon, northwest of Milwaukee, where some 900 workers have been on strike since October 1. "The highlight of the tour for us was talking

to the strikers at the John Deere plant," said IAM striker Nick Wink, from Kansas City.

The strikers also spoke at two colleges. Close to \$2,500 was raised for the strike from donations and T-shirt sales on the tour.

A huge billboard was rented at the main airport entrance to coincide with the strikers' visit. "Thank you for not flying Eastern and Continental," it read.

The "Week of Solidarity" tour was organized by the Fairness for Eastern Committee of the MCLC.

have come to the Eastern open houses, reports striker Nick Angelos. "It surprised us," he said, "but it's a good surprise."

Eastern's hiring sessions are being held many miles from the airport, and police harassment of the strikers' pickets of them is increasing. Four strikers who went to picket a flight attendants' session recently were met by four police cars, Angelos said.

The police harassment began September 7 when Eastern resumed flights at Kansas City International Airport and strikers held a rally to protest the start-up.

Herb Johnson, president of IAM Local 1650, was arrested that day and held in the city jail overnight for allegedly relaying word of a bomb threat to picketers at the airport. The charges were dropped, but cop intimidation of strikers continues. Local 1650 represents more than 4,000 workers at Trans World Airlines.

Striking IAM Local 1018 member Ernie Mailhot from New York, Bill Scheer from Milwaukee, and Arlene Rubenstein from Kansas City contributed to this column.

Miners' support strengthens Eastern strike actions

BY SUSAN LaMONT

On October 29 several striking Pittston coal miners drove five hours from Robinson Creek, Kentucky, to Louisville to join a rally in support of workers on strike at Eastern Airlines.

They weren't alone. Some 350 other unionists and community supporters also turned out at Standiford Field, Louisville's airport, to demonstrate their solidarity with the Eastern strikers, who number only nine in that city. It was the largest strike-support action held in Louisville since the national walkout by ramp workers, cleaners, mechanics, and other Eastern workers began last March.

During the last few weeks, rallies, airport walk-throughs, and other activities have continued to mobilize support for striking Eastern workers and keep their fight in the public eye.

These actions are part of the stepped-up activity organized by strikers in many cities that began in August. They were in response to challenges to the strike posed by Eastern's resumption of more flights and the return to work by hundreds of pilots and flight attendants early that month.

The Eastern workers' fight — now the longest national strike since World War II — has also been reinforced by the new pattern of labor struggles marked by the emergence of simultaneous battles nationally. The Eastern strike has been joined by the deepening fightback of the United Mine Workers of America, centered around support for the strike against Pittston Coal company, and the strike by the 58,000 aircraft workers at Boeing. Boeing, like Eastern, is organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

At the Louisville rally, Terry Varney, chair of United Mine Workers (UMWA) Local 5737's outreach committee at Robinson Creek, welcomed the support the miners have received from the Eastern strikers. "Three buses of auto workers, Eastern strikers, and others came down last week from Louisville to show support for us," he said. "We want to return some support."

Members of 15 unions — including from the musicians' union, which provided a Dixieland band — turned out to back the Louisville strikers. Members of community groups and the University of Louisville's Campus Coalition for Labor Justice, which hosted a meeting for the Eastern and Pittston strikers earlier in the month, also came.

At an October 14 rally in St. Louis that drew 250 unionists, Bill Brumfield, president of UMWA Local 2295 in the southern Illinois coalfields, saluted the Eastern fighters. "You are fighting our battle," he said, calling on all union members to unite behind the Pittston and Eastern strikes. Local Eastern strike coordinator Jerry Wasser told the crowd the rally was a shot in the arm for all 30 Eastern



October 28 walk-through at Philadelphia International Airport drew 200 strikers and supporters from more than a dozen other unions.

strikers in St. Louis.

Miners also played a big part in the October 29 walk-through of the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport.

More than 100 striking coal miners from Duquesne Light and the Aloe strip mine joined 300 other unionists in a two-by-two march through the terminal building. Chants of "Hey, hey, ho, ho, [Eastern head] Frank Lorenzo's got to go!" drowned out normal conversation at Eastern's ticket counter. "We are *union!*" greeted passengers picking up baggage from Eastern's 2:00 p.m. arrival.

Outreach committees

Pittsburgh is one of several cities where Eastern strikers have formed or strengthened outreach committees, speakers bureaus, or strike committees in the past few months. These committees have a common purpose: to continue reaching out for solidarity from the rest of the labor movement, to organize actions that can combat Eastern's strike-breaking "reorganization" plan, and to mobilize the membership in strike activities.

In Pittsburgh, International Association of Machinists Local 1044's recently formed outreach committee organized the October 29 walk-through and made a special push to publicize the action among airport workers.

Dozens turned out, especially from USAir, which flies 85 percent of flights in and out of Pittsburgh. Teamster-organized ground workers marched in union T-shirts.

Airport and airline workers of every kind — from restaurant workers to skycaps —

greeted the walk-through with cheers, thumbs-up signs, waves, and smiles. Some joined in on the way to or from work.

Three workers from Marriott, which caters airline food, also attended. Workers there are members of the IAM and have been resisting preparing food for Eastern's scab flights.

Scores of steelworkers, a van load of IAM members from Lockheed Aircraft subassembly plant in Clarksburg, West Virginia, a pair of Eastern strikers from Buffalo, New York, and many other unionists were also at the airport to lend the Pittsburgh strikers a hand.

Subcontract workers

Three workers from Aircraft Services, Inc. stopped by and introduced themselves to people at the Pittsburgh walk-through. They belong to the same Teamsters union local as USAir workers. ASI currently fuels Eastern planes. "The day the strike began in March," said one ASI worker, "we were told we would be doing all of Eastern's ground work. No way!"

"We have to fuel the planes," said another. "The union says we have to honor the contract the company has, but we're trying to fight it. We've managed not to do the other ground work, and if we didn't fuel them, they wouldn't fly at all."

In Washington, D.C., New York, and other cities, strikers are trying to find ways to reach workers at the subcontracting companies now doing ramp, cleaning, and other work for Eastern — especially those, like ASI, Hudson General, and Ogden Allied that are

organized by the IAM and other unions.

In Philadelphia, IAM-organized workers at Atlantic Aviation and several other subcontracting companies have successfully fought attempts to get them to do work on Eastern's flights.

Some 200 unionists came to Philadelphia for a walk through the airport October 28 after IAM Local 1776 decided an action was needed to increase the strike's visibility in that city.

In addition to members of 14 unions from the Philadelphia area, Eastern strikers came from New York, Washington, D.C., and Newark, New Jersey, to be part of the walk-through.

"This is our strike," Wayne Slivenski, president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-234, told a rally at IAM Local 1776's union hall before the walk-through. "An injury to one is an injury to all. Let's hound Lorenzo 24 hours a day. We need to shut him down." Local 8-234, which had 10 members at the action, organizes workers at British Petroleum's refinery in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia strikers are also discussing how to continue their fight in light of the recent sale of Eastern's nine gates in that city — the bulk of the struck airline's operations there — to Midway Airlines, a largely non-union carrier.

Florida statewide action

In Miami, where 3,000 of the 8,500 striking Eastern Machinists are based, IAM Local 702 is moving ahead with plans for a statewide strike support march and rally November 19.

The demonstration will be part of a weekend of activities called "Miami Camp Solidarity."

Building for the action, which has the backing of the South Florida AFL-CIO, is being spearheaded by Local 702's recently constituted outreach committee. The committee helped organize the October 23 "human billboard" that mobilized 1,500 strikers and supporters during the travel agents' national convention.

TWU Local 500, which organizes workers at Pan American Airlines, has endorsed the march, and strikers are speaking to other union meetings as well.

The outreach committee's plans also include a caravan to other cities in Florida to build the November statewide march.

Striking IAM Local 702 member Rick Walker from Miami contributed to this article, along with Bronson Rozier and Carol Bilsky from Louisville, David Rosenfeld from St. Louis, Michael Carper from Philadelphia, and Michael Pennock from Pittsburgh.

Push needed to reach all goals in int'l circulation drive

BY SUSAN LaMONT

There are 11 days left in the international circulation drive to win 9,000 new readers for the socialist press.

With the windup date of November 12 approaching fast, supporters in every area are in a strong position to organize the final push needed to go over the top for all the publications.

Ground was gained during the October 21-27 target week, pushing the drive as a whole a little further ahead of schedule.

While the *Militant* remains way ahead, important progress was also made in sales of the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*.

At least 227 copies of *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* were sold during the target week. Many areas report increased sales of the magazines — especially the newly redesigned issues No. 5 and No. 6 — to coworkers in industry.

In Kansas City, Missouri, supporters started the target week having sold three copies of the magazines. By the end of the week, they had sold 15 and have since reached their goal of 20.

"We had to have a discussion about what it would take to reach our goal and why it was important for coworkers in the unions, political activists, young people, and others to read the magazine," said Kansas City distribution director Bob Cantrick.

"The secret to our sales was more intensive political discussions with people who might be interested in the magazine," he added. Cantrick explained that supporters began by calling every subscriber to the *Militant* to talk with them about getting *New International* — and several of them did. Another copy was sold by a supporter to a coworker at an auto assembly plant. Five were placed in a major Black bookstore in the city. Three were sold to women's rights activists, and five were placed in a reggae record shop.

Supporters in Newark participated in a day-long fair at Essex County Community College during the target week. They sold six *Militant*, four *PM*, and two *LO* subscriptions, along with seven copies of *Nouvelle Internationale* and one *New International*. Newark

supporters sold 21 *NIs* during the week, bringing their total to 70.

In addition to pushing to make the *New International-Nouvelle Internationale* goal, special efforts need to be mapped out in every area to meet the targets set for *Perspectiva Mundial* and *Lutte ouvrière*.

Two sales teams to coal-producing areas are being organized to increase sales of the socialist press to miners.

The first team will travel for two weeks to coal-mining areas in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. During their first week on the road, they sold 13 *Militant* subscriptions, including seven to miners at the entrance to Pittsburg and Midway's mine near Gallup, New Mexico.

Another team of supporters from Canada, the United States, and Britain will visit coal-mining areas near Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Miners there belong to the United Mine Workers of America.

As the scoreboard indicates, several areas have already gone over their goals. France and Austin, Minnesota, are at the top, both with 110 percent. A number of other areas will reach their goals before the end of the drive. With every area continuing to push through November 12, we can successfully reach the goals in all categories.

The drive will end November 12. On that day, thousands of supporters of women's right to choose abortion will converge on Washington, D.C., for the Mobilization for Women's Lives. *Militant* distributors have been building this, and local, abortion rights demonstrations in recent months. They will be at the rally in big numbers to sell the socialist press to the fighters, especially the young people, who will be there that day.

All *Militant* supporters are urged to join in distributing the paper November 12 and helping to push the international circulation drive over the top. If you would like to be part of a *Militant* sales team, contact the *Militant* Business Office at (212) 929-3486.

Following the November 12 rally, everyone is invited to an open house sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance, at George Washington University's Marvin Center, 21st Street and H Street NW, from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Free speech victory won in Pennsylvania mining town

BY CHRIS RAYSON

MASONTOWN, Pa. — "Sign me up!" This was the response of one retired miner here when a *Militant* distributor offered an introductory subscription. He was glad to see the paper again after buying a copy at a July rally in support of striking Pittston Coal miners.

After an interval of two years and five months, the *Militant* newspaper and other socialist literature is now being distributed again in Masontown, located in southern Pennsylvania's coalfields.

On October 7 *Militant* supporters successfully canvassed the town door-to-door for the first time since May 2, 1987. While distributing the *Militant* on that day Mark Satinoff was arrested and handcuffed by Masontown police. He was convicted of violating a town ordinance that requires purchasing a license for peddling and soliciting at a cost of \$20 per day. Satinoff was fined \$350.

On appeal, a three-member panel of Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court judges ruled unanimously Aug. 7, 1989, that Masontown's antipeddling ordinance was a violation of freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution.

In an opinion written by Judge Bernard McGinley, the Commonwealth Court held that Satinoff's "primary purpose was to discuss political ideas and topics contained in the *Militant*."

Satinoff was represented by Mark Galper, a Monessen, Pennsylvania, attorney, on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union. When *Militant* supporters arrived here Oc-

tober 7 to distribute literature, they met with a much different response from town officials.

The arresting officer in 1987, Lt. Robert Kelly, met with the delegation to facilitate the day's sales. Because of the court ruling, no fee was charged for soliciting and it was understood that distributors would sell there regularly. The right to set up a Pathfinder literature table in town was also established.

The headquarters of District 4 of the United Mine Workers of America is located here, and many miners reside in this town.

Militant supporters received a good response from working people. In all, 30 single copies and eight subscriptions were sold along with five copies of the pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*.

In a statement distributed to residents throughout the day, Dick McBride, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from West Virginia, hailed the ruling.

The court's decision "really is a victory for all working people," read the statement. "Masontown was trying to make people pay a fee for exercising their freedom of speech. Coal miners on strike against Pittston or Duquesne Light may want to go door-to-door in a local community to explain their strike or distribute literature and accept donations. Now they can do this without having to pay an outrageous fee and with less chance of being arrested and fined. It means that working people can more freely discuss and exchange ideas and the problems we're all facing."



Militant supporters distributed *Militant* in Masontown, Pennsylvania, October 7 after court decision struck down antipeddling ordinance. Ruling is "a victory for all working people," said Dick McBride (left, in white sweater), Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from West Virginia.

Subscription drive scoreboard

Areas	DRIVE GOALS			Militant subscriptions		New Int'l single copies		Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions		Lutte ouvrière subscriptions	
	Goal	Total-Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Austin, Minn.*	102	112	110%	75	88	10	9	15	15	2	0
St. Louis*	200	214	107%	165	187	25	18	7	7	3	2
Detroit*	260	265	102%	207	222	30	22	18	17	5	4
Greensboro, NC*	120	118	98%	95	95	15	13	8	9	2	1
Des Moines, Iowa	225	218	97%	170	166	25	23	25	27	5	2
Kansas City	117	110	94%	80	80	20	20	15	10	2	0
Milwaukee	123	114	93%	85	97	15	8	20	8	3	1
Cleveland	105	97	92%	75	74	18	17	10	5	2	1
Omaha, Neb.*	137	118	86%	100	91	20	14	15	13	2	0
Miami	300	257	86%	180	150	40	39	50	38	30	30
Washington, DC*	205	173	84%	140	127	25	10	35	32	5	4
Price, Utah	52	43	83%	35	38	8	1	8	4	1	0
Phoenix	77	63	82%	45	45	15	6	15	12	2	0
Morgantown, WV	137	110	80%	100	87	25	21	10	2	2	0
Brooklyn	410	327	80%	260	174	60	68	65	62	25	23
Birmingham, Ala.	177	141	80%	140	128	25	10	10	2	2	1
Baltimore	175	138	79%	135	123	25	9	10	6	5	0
Seattle	138	106	77%	95	82	20	3	20	21	3	0
Philadelphia	225	171	76%	155	134	30	15	35	22	5	0
San Francisco	240	181	75%	165	124	35	24	35	33	5	0
Newark, NJ	490	365	74%	250	221	95	70	95	58	50	16
Chicago	360	268	74%	225	175	50	49	75	43	10	1
Twin Cities, Minn.	320	234	73%	250	200	35	16	30	16	5	2
New York	665	480	72%	330	269	150	83	150	113	35	15
Salt Lake City	137	98	72%	100	62	20	21	15	14	2	1
Pittsburgh*	200	143	71%	155	121	30	18	10	4	5	0
Houston	227	155	68%	150	123	30	7	45	22	2	3
Los Angeles	510	330	65%	285	225	90	10	130	95	5	0
Atlanta	210	135	64%	155	103	30	16	20	14	5	2
Portland, Ore.	195	121	62%	150	100	20	8	20	10	5	3
Oakland, Calif.	200	118	59%	125	90	30	7	40	20	5	1
Charleston, WV	112	66	59%	90	56	15	6	5	4	2	0
Boston	250	147	59%	160	94	35	20	40	20	15	13
National teams	-	47	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Binghamton, NY*	45	30	67%	36	26	3	2	4	2	1	1
Cincinnati	10	4	40%	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denver	20	7	35%	10	2	-	-	10	5	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	8	5	63%	8	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	50	44	88%	40	36	5	2	5	6	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	7,534	5,873	78%	5,031	4,271	1,124	685	1,120	790	259	127
AUSTRALIA											
Manchester	60	35	58%	35	18	6	4	17	12	2	1
BRITAIN											
London	74	53	72%	50	38	18	11	5	4	1	0
South Yorks	165	109	66%	105	59	30	31	25	19	5	0
South Wales	107	6									

Cuba: construction contingents pose

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Since July the mobilization and organization of voluntary labor in Cuba has made big strides, posing new openings and challenges to the revolutionary process in that country.

Several speeches and comments to the press by Cuban President Fidel Castro over the last two months have focused on the development of construction contingents in Cuba. He has also reviewed the progress of construction minibrigades.

Contingents are made up of full-time skilled construction workers, unlike the smaller minibrigades, which are composed of volunteers who have been temporarily released from their regular jobs or who work extra hours in addition to their jobs, to build needed social projects.

The achievements come in the context of last summer's trials and sentencing of top government officials and military officers for corruption, especially from the Ministry of the Interior. Four were tried and executed for drug trafficking and treason.

Since the trials, "people are talking about a new phase, a higher phase, in the process of rectification," one reporter told the Cuban leader at an October 1 press briefing.

Like a hurricane

Castro replied, "These processes are like hurricanes; you can't predict their path, timing." He said that "the problems we had in the Ministry of the Interior, which were setbacks, are being turned into a victory."

The Ministry of the Interior is important, Castro said, because "much of its information is economic. . . . We had lost certain mechanisms that allowed us to know what was going on in any area. This whole process, which was traumatic, and radical, also forced us to take radical measures. . . . When the minister of the interior was replaced, someone said that the process of rectification had progressed 10 years."

Just before the meeting with reporters, Castro had spoken to the Blas Roca Contingent on its second anniversary. He told the construction workers, "I sincerely believe the contingents are one of the loftiest and most promising steps taken by the revolution. They have demonstrated what it means to believe in the people, to believe in man."

The Cuban leader said the phrase "Work with the contingent spirit" is heard everywhere, even in the schools.

The Blas Roca Contingent was the first of 66 construction contingents that exist today and is one of the largest. The number of workers grouped in these detachments has grown from 20,000 in August to 32,000 today. Contingents are organized by different branches of government and are composed of volunteer skilled construction workers who take on major civil engineering projects such as highways and dams.

"Do you see this as a general idea for the

whole system of socialism?" one reporter asked, indicating that workers in other industries want to implement the contingent work style. "All these sectors of industry must be studied one by one. . . . I want to wait until the party congress to see what the workers have to say," Castro answered.

"Quite possibly, the number of contingents will increase late this year or early next year. . . . I think that maybe by next year we will have more than 100 contingents," Castro told the Blas Roca workers. Such an expansion could involve more than 50,000 workers, he reported.

"There is no rush," he said. "The contingent status must be earned through the construction workers' spirit and standard of excellence, and we must be sure all the conditions exist to set up a new contingent. We are moving ahead slowly, and we're

"Of course, it won't be easy to apply these norms to any activity. We will have to give it a lot of thought; we will have to analyze all sorts of variants," he said.

"These ideas are spreading to other sectors. I think this is very important; who knows how far we can go along this path, because now we are undertaking national development with less hard currency resources than ever, and with less reliability in socialist supplies," he said, referring to imports from East Europe and the Soviet Union.

Labor congress preparations

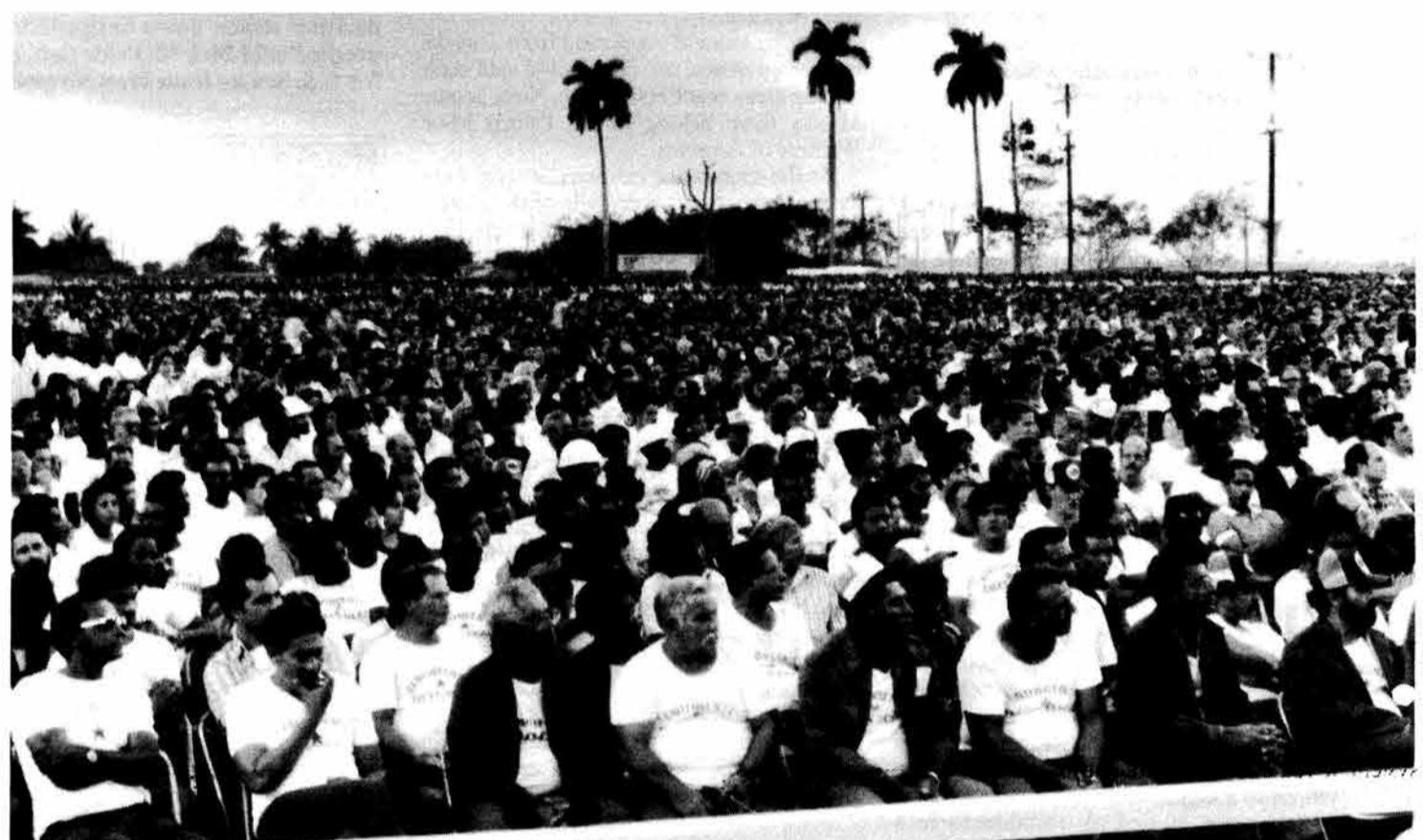
The discussion in Cuba about the contingents and the contingent work style comes as preparations are picking up for the 16th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC). The congress is scheduled to be held Jan. 24-28, 1990. Dis-

lence of building socialism.

"Only the people can make the revolution, the entire people, and the first thing revolutionaries must do to secure the support of the entire people is convince the people that the revolution is the most just and the highest stage of society," Castro explained to the Blas Roca Contingent. "Socialism is a system . . . in which there is a change from the dog-eat-dog society to one in which people are truly brothers and sisters.

"Socialism should not encourage individualism, the loner, the alienated man, people working without deep motivation," he said. "Deep motivations are worth more than anything else, because with deep motivations people undertake any sacrifice."

"What factors have led some socialist processes to a disastrous state?" Castro asked. "Someday it will be clear" that "the methods



Militant/Mary-Alice Waters

Members of the Blas Roca Contingent at celebration of 30th anniversary of Cuban revolution in January 1989

doing so because we are in a hurry. . . . But we are going slowly to do things well and to maintain the force and solidarity of the movement."

"I think this organization is really a great gain for the revolution, a higher kind of work style in the revolution," Castro continued. "It is already having an influence on all sectors. The example set by the contingents has inspired, as a rule, the other construction workers" who are "now working with the contingent spirit and making big efforts."

cussions in workplaces have been organized across the country, and provincial union congresses are being held through December.

Granma Weekly Review, published by the Cuban Communist Party, reported in its October 8 issue that the discussions take place at a time of "decisive and historical" importance. According to *Granma*, the labor organization's draft report, which provides a basis for the current discussion, "pinpoints the progress achieved during the process of rectification of errors and negative tendencies. . . . It also admits the responsibility of the CTC and trade unions for many of the errors."

The document, *Granma* reports, states that "there's still much to be done and rectified" and comes out in favor of "expanding the role of the trade unions" in developing society and building socialism.

Rectification process

The rectification process in Cuba, begun in 1986, was initiated by the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba in response to evidence of growing political demobilization and demoralization among Cuba's working people. These trends were registered by increasing instances of bureaucratic mismanagement, indifference, abuse, declining productivity and work morale, the growth of corruption and fraud, and frustration over attempts to deal with such problems piecemeal.

Since then the communist political reorientation advanced through the rectification campaign has gained ground. This is evidenced by the growth of the minibrigade and contingent movement. The backbone of the brigades and contingents is the voluntary labor of thousands of Cuban working people.

Motivated by socialism

Castro explains that this effort is only possible because workers have been deeply motivated to confront the enormous chal-

lenges of building socialism.

"Unfortunately we were affected by this virus, thanks to some people supposedly very theoretically knowledgeable; but they forgot the true path, the really revolutionary path to build socialism. The issue is whether you do or don't believe in people." Under capitalism, people are treated like dogs, Castro said, and money is used to motivate them.

Socialism vs. capitalism

"The worker in socialism knows why he works. He's not working only for himself; he's working for his country, for society, for everyone, for his children, for his loved ones, for his parents and grandparents — so that his grandparents can have medical care, or a

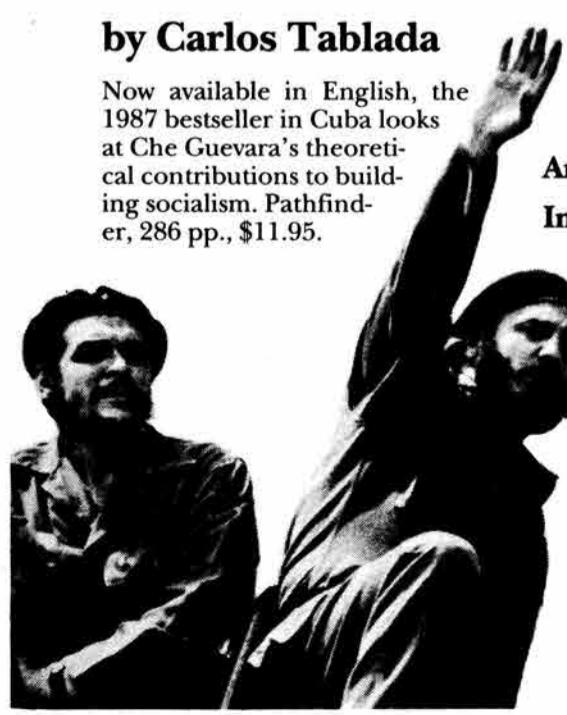


Minibrigade workers

Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism

by Carlos Tablada

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And by Fidel Castro:

In Defense of Socialism Four Speeches on the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. Castro explains his views on the lessons of 30 years of building socialism in Cuba; the prospects for socialism in today's world; internationalism; and many other topics. 142 pp., \$7.95.

"Cuba Will Never Adopt Capitalist Methods" Excerpts from Castro's July 26, 1988, speech. 32 pp., \$1.50.

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new challenges

place to go if they're alone and have no one to look after them, so that they receive a pension, so that no one is forgotten," he said.

"The exploited worker in capitalism has no other choice but to work only for money. . . . In capitalism you have no choice. No one is going to educate your children. No one is going to look after your children in day-care centers; no one is going to give them the opportunity to reach whatever intellectual level they want. No one is going to look after the health of your children. No one is going to guarantee them a job; you have to watch out for yourself as best as you can," the Cuban leader explained.

He listed some of the troubles created by capitalism — unemployment, illness, drug abuse, prostitution, and other vices. He also pointed to the disastrous problems of the underdeveloped capitalist countries, among them illiteracy and high infant mortality.

"I've said and argued that socialism can and should work better than capitalism. In a socialist system, a revolutionary system, there are no conflicts with the workers. There's no reason for any, because the worker totally identifies with his society, the state, and the means of production. The worker sees a complete harmony between his work and himself," Castro said.

"If you copy capitalism, you'll see all the little problems you'll have. . . . All kinds of problems arise when you divorce the worker from his work, when you begin to strip him of his most noble ideals and his most profound motivations and substitute everything with money," he said.

Contingent's organization

The Cuban leader described how workers who participate in Cuba's construction contingents are paid and how this differs from the "crazy" bonus systems and fixed rate salaries for regular construction workers that "inspired against quality" and "produced shoddy workmanship."

"If you put a truck driver on a bonus system, if you pay him for more trips and he makes more trips, how fast is he going? And a truck driver shouldn't make more trips than those permitted by the speed limit; otherwise he is going to kill himself or someone else or wreck his vehicle." When the contingents were first created, the volunteers correctly rejected the bonus system, Castro said.

He explained the "multi-assignment" concept, which eliminated narrow job classifications and allows workers to do more than one job, increasing labor productivity. Under the old system if a worker missed work, it could cause production to shut down. Under the new norms, a worker may be a truck driver and if the loader is sick, the driver steps in to help with the loader's job, instead of stopping production, Castro said.

Overtime pay was scrapped when the contingent workers discarded the eight-hour day. Instead the workday is set at the number of hours necessary to complete a given project in the shortest time. "It seemed just to us . . . that if people are putting in 11, 12, or more hours, that they be

paid for those hours. They weren't overtime, but actually the regular day for workers in the contingent," he said.

Wage structures also changed through the experience of the contingents. Castro explained that he proposed a special wage rate for contingent workers, a rate "worthy of men and women making an all-out effort in a conscientious manner, in an enthusiastic manner, to carry out the plans of the revolution."

"In some cases it looked as if the wage rate would be too high. So I said, 'I don't mind if it's high as long as the work justifies it and taking into consideration the larger number of hours worked each day,'" he said. "That was how the wage rate was determined."

Even with this higher rate it turned out that some construction workers were getting a higher wage based on salary rates from their previous jobs. "We established the principle that to belong to a contingent, workers must abide by the new rate," Castro said. "Salaries had to be evened out."

Labor discipline

"I believe that all the problems of two-bit capitalism were linked to indiscipline and paternalistic labor legislation, which did not exist to boost discipline but to boost indiscipline," Castro said. "It wasn't to protect the good worker, but rather the loafer, the scoundrel, the rogue — we have to say it like it is. As a rule, the good worker never had a problem of any kind; but the other, the slacker, was a virtual lawyer. He knew all the clauses in the law; sowing indiscipline, and with indiscipline demoralization."

The question of labor discipline will have to be analyzed at the upcoming trade union congress, Castro said.

Labor discipline "was one of the things that was changed with the contingents. But it wasn't changed by the unilateral discipline of an administrator or manager; it was changed by the discipline that was imposed by the collective. I believe that this is one of the most important contributions of the contingents," Castro said.

Origin of contingent idea

The Cuban leader explained how the idea of the contingents came about, how they were established, and how they function.

He told about workers at the National Scientific Research Center, who, faced with the need to develop a very important medicine, worked day and night and eliminated narrow conceptions of their job classifications. "So the idea was born: if we have a research center on which many people rely for their health and well-being, why waste time? Why not devote yourself to work?" he said.

Today the center is "doing more research than ever . . . and do you know what the projected payroll was for this center? It was 350 people — approximately one-sixth of what it normally would have had."

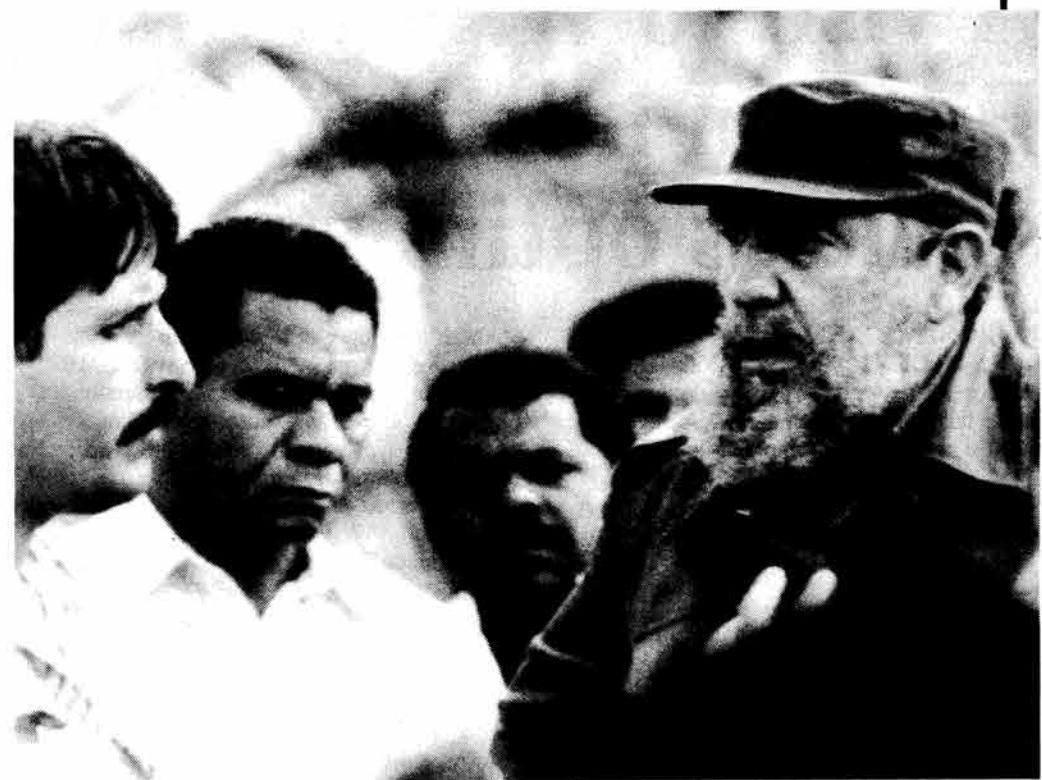
Later, Castro said, a minibrigade construction crew building a hospital "started to work really hard. They taught many of the women in other minibrigades to lay tiles. They were enthused by their job; and at one time they were working 12, 13, 14 hours a day. This collective was really in love with its work."

"We got ideas from this experience . . . the idea of creating a collective that would demonstrate everything that can be done in construction, and how we can save labor in construction, and the productivity that can be achieved," he said. And the Blas Roca Contingent was established.

Like the Rebel Army

The Blas Roca Contingent started out with one brigade. As new projects developed, the need for additional brigades was posed. Castro compared the growth of the contingent to the development of the Rebel Army that led the Cuban revolution to victory in the late 1950s.

"It was like what happened with the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra mountains. One column existed and from it came a second, then the third and fourth, and thus many of the founders were in different columns," Castro said. "That is how the brigades were formed, one by one, and we reached the 23 brigades we have now. So in two years the first brigade has become an army."



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Fidel Castro meets with workers in Camagüey, Cuba.

"We started by building a highway and now we do anything, everything," Castro said. The contingent is involved in building highways, railroads, cold storage houses, canals, rural pre-university schools, and tourist hotels.

"Nowadays, the Blas Roca Contingent is a great enterprise," the Cuban leader told workers at the inauguration of the Juan Gualberto Gómez International Airport in Varadero on September 25. "It is a new kind of enterprise . . . without bureaucracy and with a minimum of administrative workers," he said. "There were times when enterprises were created with more people working in offices than on the project."

Contingents have shown that they can do twice as much with half the workers allocated, Castro said.

Accountability

"One of the most important things about the contingent," Castro explained October 1, "is that it keeps strict checks on all costs: equipment depreciation, upkeep, fuel, blasting material if needed, the value of everything used, and of course salaries down to the last detail. Thanks to the contingent at last we were able to discover how much a project cost!"

Previously construction projects were often plagued by cost overruns caused by waste, inefficiency, and corruption. The result was that budget figures were often inflated and failed to represent the true value of a given project.

"I actually consider this one of the contingent's most valuable contributions — cost reduction, increased efficiency, and keeping tabs on costs, so important for the country's development."

Proper working conditions and attention to workers' well-being are essential aspects of the contingent's functioning, Castro explained. Workers are housed in air-conditioned dormitories, and every volunteer receives thorough medical and dental exams.

"We also made the rule that the workers of the contingent had to be the best fed in the country," Castro said. But this couldn't be done by taking food away from the population as a whole, or from institutions. New sources had to be found.

Key to development

"Construction is very important. Construction is one of the basic activities. It is more important than any other activity. There is no social or economic development without construction," Castro said at the Varadero airport inauguration.

In a speech marking the third anniversary of the minibrigades, Castro reported September 30 on the accomplishments of tens of thousands who are part of the country's minibrigades and support groups. In Havana, Cuba's capital city, some 35,000 volunteers have joined the brigades. They are organized around tasks of building needed housing, day-care centers, hospitals, schools, and offices for family doctors and nurses. Minibrigades have expanded into other areas as well, including the reconstruction and maintenance of housing and upgrading certain industries.

More than 160 minibrigades are involved in tearing down and replacing substandard slum housing.

One challenge the contingents and minibrigades encountered early on was a shortage of cement and lumber. Castro reported that the cement shortage has been overcome through the construction of cement-producing plants and better techniques in mixing concrete. A campaign to conserve lumber used for construction purposes is currently under way. Workers are finding ways to reuse wood or use other materials as substitutes.

The lack of resources has been the main brake on the progress of the work of the contingents and minibrigades. Despite these drawbacks important construction progress was made over the last year, Castro said.



Militant/Luko Willms

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A visit to W. Virginia Pittston mines finds strikers optimistic

BY RONI McCANN

SLAB FORK HOLLOW, W. Va. — "Pittston doesn't know what they've done — this strike has made us stronger, more together, and I'd say they really messed up bad."

At the Slab Fork hollow picket shack, Terry Collins, recording secretary for United Mine Workers of America Local 1971, discussed the seven-month strike against Pittston Coal Group.

Collins, with 13 years in the mines, is currently on strike at Pittston's Elkay Mine in Logan County, West Virginia. He helped lead an 82-mile march from Logan County to Charleston for the June 11 solidarity rally and was also one of the 98 striking miners who occupied the Virginia Moss No. 3 tipple in September.

Some 1,900 miners are on strike against Pittston in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. The strike has shut down mines in Kentucky and West Virginia, which account for one-third of Pittston's coal production, and slowed production in Virginia.

Profits drop

The October 23 *Wall Street Journal* announced that net income of the Pittston Co., which the coal division is part of, plunged 79 percent — to \$3.1 million in the third quarter compared to \$14.7 million at the same time last year. In addition, the coal division has spent \$20 million on security since the strike began.

In Logan County, West Virginia, Pittston's Buffalo Mining (in Buffalo Creek) and Elkay (in Slab Fork) are struck, along with a smaller operation northeast in Fayette County.

UMWA members picket at six places in the Logan area, covering not only struck Pittston mines and coal tipplers but a nonunion A.T. Massey subsidiary as well.

The picket locations are all near each other, with a "lookout" shack strategically placed aside the only bridge leading to Dehue hollow. Scabs must cross the bridge to work at the Massey operation. Up the road from the bridge sits the Slab Fork shack where Collins reports for picket duty daily on the second shift.

Fight to keep picket shack

Aside from keeping the Elkay mine shut down, establishing the right to keep the Slab Fork picket shack was a battle in itself, Collins explained. Strikers had to fight to prove the road was a public one and not Pittston's driveway.

"At the beginning of the strike, in its first move against the union, the company fenced in our picket shack," said Collins. Eventually strikers moved the shack onto the CSX railroad right-of-way, which crosses the road. Despite complaints by Pittston to CSX officials, the railroad decided against having the shack moved. "We've been on the right-of-way ever since," he said.

Collins, like most of the strikers, was optimistic about the battle against Pittston. "I think the word has spread — not just locally but all over the United States and even in Canada and other countries. More unions are fighting. There are more people, more determination, and with that we have more power."

This mood was a factor in the recent visit by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole to the coalfields, said Collins. "I'm sure the government is taking a good look at this strike." On October 25 Dole named former labor secretary William Usery as mediator in the fight. Pittston Chief Executive Paul Douglas agreed to the appointment as did UMWA officials, who had raised the idea of a "super mediator," with Usery as a possible candidate, early on.

U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller from West Virginia stated he would continue pushing his bill to force Pittston to pay into funds for pensions and health benefits. "One thing that has come from this bill is more light shed on this issue," said Collins. "Not everybody understood how serious the health-care question was."

Union members get involved

Collins described the increasing involvement of union members in the strike. "We shouldn't have worked 14 months without a contract in my opinion. We should have gone on strike right away. After we finally did, it took awhile for some to get active."

"Once you travel to Camp Solidarity, though, you want to keep going back, and you get more involved," he said. "You really leave that place feeling as one."

Camp Solidarity, set up in June, is a campsite in Virginia used by strikers as an organizing center. Thousands of unionists and strike supporters have visited the grounds.

Collins pointed to the difficulties of staying inspired in a long strike. "You can get tired. That's why solidarity is so important. We have to keep everyone together." Referring to the four-day occupation of Pittston's Moss No. 3 in Virginia, he said, "We proved we could stay strong and not be beaten." Some



Militant/Roni McCann

Terry Collins (left) recording secretary of United Mine Workers Local 1971, and fellow striker at Slab Fork hollow in West Virginia, site of Pittston's Elkay mine. More unions are fighting now, says Collins, and "with that we have more power."

160 Logan County strikers traveled to Virginia for the action, said Collins.

Media distorts facts

Another striker, Bobby Adkins, reported on the distorted media coverage of their fight. Adkins cited the shooting of strike leader Roy Blankenship while on picket duty. "The papers said something like 'UMWA violence — picket gets shot,'" he said.

Adkins sported a UMWA hat covered with buttons defending a woman's place in the union, solidarity with striking Communications Workers, and support for the Eastern Airlines strike. "Your buddy gave me this one the other day when you all came by," he said pointing to a "No Lorenzo" button. Two days before, Ernie Mailhot, an Eastern striker at New York's La Guardia Airport, and two ramp workers from Trans World Airlines had visited with the strikers. Collins commented on how important it was for them to know they have supporters in other cities.

Buffalo Creek disaster

Just a short distance from the Slab Fork picket shack, some 40 strikers were gathered at the bridge. Many were interested in hearing the latest news from Camp Solidarity in Virginia, and most added that they had visited the camp several times since the beginning of the strike.

Lawrence Graham, a UMWA member on strike at the Buffalo Creek mine, has traveled to the camp five times and said some strikers have used their vacation time to go. Graham also joined a march of 400 in Virginia to the

gates of Pittston's McClure mine. The march was shortly after the Moss No. 3 occupation, and he described the fear of company officials, who thought they were about to see a repeat performance.

As a pastime, Graham, who is talented with a paintbrush, has added union slogans and UMWA logos to one of the picket shacks in Buffalo Creek. Like many miners in Buffalo Creek, Graham had relatives who were killed or left homeless in 1972 when Pittston's poorly built dam gave way and a lethal wall of poisonous waste water poured down Buffalo Creek killing 125 and leaving 4,000 without homes. Pittston called the flood "an act of God."

After the strike began, Graham, who painted the original marker remembering the disaster caused by the profit-hungry coal giant, made a new and bigger marker. "125 people killed by Pittston at Buffalo Creek — now they want the survivors," reads the tombstone-shaped sign.

A big discussion among the strikers centered around an accident involving scabs whose lives were saved by the pickets. Cora Ballard still has bruises from the October 17 incident. "The hollow was flooded when the van carrying the scabs, we call it the 'war wagon,' tried to make it through the high waters," Ballard recalled. She described how the van got stuck along the road bordering a creek. The vice-president of the scab-hiring outfit chained the van to his pick-up truck and tried to free it. "He started up the hill, but he was going too fast. Sure enough, the chain broke and the van dropped over the side," said Ballard. A 50-foot drop into the creek.

Pittston to blame

Ballard and several union members helped rescue the scabs from the raging waters. Even the police sergeant admitted that without the strikers at least one of the scabs would have died. "We really hate these guys, but we couldn't let them die," said James Justice, a UMWA striker. Ballard said afterward that the strikers offered to take up a collection to help one of the scabs return home, but they all returned to work.

"This is all Pittston's fault in my opinion," said Ballard. "They hired them." The strikers' efforts received a lot of press in the area.

On October 25 federal marshals were sent into Logan County by U.S. District Judge Dennis Knapp to enforce his July court order mandating that the road be clear at the Slab Fork shack even if the pickets are on a CSX right-of-way. Eight pickets were arrested for "willfully disobeying the court order."

Elkay Pittston striker Ray Watts said, "Our intention is to keep Pittston from moving coal. I'm sure whatever is done will be in a nonviolent way."

Despite the harassment, strikers feel support is growing. The West Virginia AFL-CIO state convention met the week of October 16. Solidarity with the UMWA strike against Pittston was named a top priority for the coming year. A collection was also taken up for the Eastern strikers, and plans are being made for strike support activities. "Any union on strike has to be our No. 1 priority," said state AFL-CIO head Joseph Powell. "They're our front line."

NYNEX strike solid after 13 weeks

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — "We are striking for better health benefits," explained a telephone worker on picket duty here at one of the phone company buildings.

After 13 weeks on strike "it's hard to be out, but health care is a big issue," she explained. Most of the 25 workers on this picket line in Manhattan on October 24 had been working as operators, clerks, and technicians for the NYNEX company for more than 15 years.

The strike by some 60,000 NYNEX workers, members of the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), began August 6 when more than 160,000 phone workers walked off the job in 15 states. A week later 40,000 joined the walkout in five more states.

NYNEX, one of the seven regional telephone companies, covers the New York and the New England states. Workers at the other regional companies affected by the strike have returned to work.

The central issue is health care. "It's very important," explained the picket captain. "They talk about our paying \$1,500 a year in health benefits. We would need a raise of at least \$2,200 just to break even."

The walkout is stronger than ever, he explained. "Of the 500 who work at this build-

ing, none have crossed the line." Since October 21 the company and the unions have resumed negotiations with a mediator. "We don't know how the talks are going," he explained. "The mediator has asked for a news blackout."

The NYNEX workers in New York are receiving unemployment benefits and help from the union to pay their rent and mortgages. On October 20 a federal district court judge restrained NYNEX from withholding medical benefits to strikers.

"Still it hurts," Mike, a technician and member of CWA Local 1101, pointed out. "We only get about half of what we were taking home before the strike. I have three kids. Nobody wants to be out, but that's how it's got to be." He feels that the strike will be won. "Other phone companies have settled without taking health benefits back," he explained. "In unity there is strength," he added, "and we are together."

Angelina, 58, who has worked for NYNEX for 25 years, explained that the strike has gotten a lot of support in the city. "The hospital workers have given us support, as well as others," she said. "We have had rallies and other activities."

On October 31 NYNEX strikers and supporters rallied on Broadway and 45th Street at the Marriott Hotel, where NYNEX Vice-chairman William Ferguson was receiving an

award.

BY RUSSELL DAVIS

BOSTON — In Massachusetts the phone strike remains solid as it enters its 12th week. Officials of the IBEW, whose 12,000 members make up most of the strikers in the state, report that only a handful have crossed the picket line.

At the NYNEX facility in Lynn, organized by the CWA, only two out of 500 strikers have crossed.

Evidence of the impact of the walkout is the battle being waged by strikers to get unemployment compensation. In September they were granted unemployment by the state Division of Employment Security. This was reversed recently by the head of the agency and upheld by an appeals court.

Strikers have organized rallies, pickets, and other actions to keep the walkout visible. Recently they have been organizing mobile picketing, with several hundred workers on call daily. They confront scab phone crews with groups of 100, setting up picket lines wherever they find scab trucks. They have succeeded in running scab trucks out of some communities completely.

The striking unions are also setting up food banks and preparing to stay out as long as it takes to win their battle against NYNEX.

After Hurricane Hugo 60,000 still homeless

Troops for curfew sent fast; federal gov't aid to victims slow.

BY JOHN COX
AND LIZ ZIERS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Three weeks after Hurricane Hugo's 18-foot wave devastated 100 miles of South Carolina coast, most of the electric power here had been restored. Twenty-nine people died as a result of the hurricane.

The storm initially left an estimated 60,000 people homeless. Most returned to mud- and water-soaked homes or moved in with friends or relatives. No plans have been announced by government officials for the 60,000 now left without homes.

In the aftermath of Hugo a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed here in Charleston. Curfew violators and suspected looters were routinely beaten by police. Although price gouging by businesses was declared a crime by the mayor, the edict was hardly enforced.

Many residents here have been angered by the slow response of the federal government and the Federal Emergency Management Administration.

"What kind of country is this?" Joey Paxton, a young medical technician asked. "The government won't help us now, but they're always ready to draft us. For what? To defend our right to be homeless," he said.

Paxton tried to get relief aid from the FEMA, but was told to show proof that he had lost \$3,000 worth of household goods to qualify.

Storm victims were especially bitter to-



Militant/Liz Ziers

Tent with donated clothing for those who lost their possessions in Charleston, South Carolina, housing project.

ward President George Bush, who only visited a small town nearby 10 days after Hugo had passed. The town suffered little damage and Bush stayed no more than two hours.

An estimated 270,000 people are out of work due to storm damage and downed power lines. The fishing, tourism, and lumber industries were hardest hit. Most shrimp boats were sunk or damaged. Raw sewage washed into coastal waters has prompted a ban on shellfish. In the rural town of St.

Stephens, damage at the Georgia-Pacific particle-board factory put 800 people out of work. It took two weeks to set up emergency unemployment offices.

Small farmers in the area anticipate renewed efforts by the government and the banks to foreclose on their land because agriculture has been devastated by floods.

Hundreds of thousands of truckloads of debris need to be hauled away, but the Labor and Commerce departments have only provided \$10 million to fund a few temporary cleanup jobs at \$4-5 an hour.

Total uninsured damage in South Carolina is now estimated at \$5 billion. Bush brought

a check for \$1 billion.

The role of the National Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers, who were deployed to protect private property, has been criticized by the homeless and local government officials. "Mostly they walk the streets and occupy motel rooms that homeless people need," Paxton said.

"They have unlimited fuel, equipment, and manpower," Charleston's Mayor Joseph Riley said. After Riley demanded cleanup aid for over three weeks, the federal government announced engineers and soldiers would be sent with front-end loaders and dump trucks for a week's work.

Bay Area quake: unnecessary deaths

BY TOM MORIARTY

SAN FRANCISCO — Nothing could have prevented the earthquake that rocked the San Francisco Bay Area on October 17. But the loss of life that resulted was unnecessary.

The majority of fatalities occurred when a one-and-a-quarter mile stretch of an interstate highway collapsed in Oakland. Rush-hour commuters on the lower deck of Interstate 880 were crushed in their cars as the concrete-and-steel roadway supports shattered and the upper deck came crashing down.

The collapsed portion of the highway was known for years to be structurally unsound. J. David Rogers, a seismic engineer, studied it in 1975 as a graduate student and found it had "zero reinforcement on the supporting columns." Inspecting the damage two days after the quake, Rogers said, "It's incredible it's lasted as long as it did."

"We knew the structure needed some changes," Jerry Oliver of the California Department of Transportation said, "It's a question of money."

Advances in engineering developed since

a 1971 freeway collapse in Southern California and a 1987 quake had not been applied to the highway, nor to 1,400 other bridges and overpasses in California.

Part of the problem is the federal government's refusal to spend an accumulated \$29 billion in users' fees for highways and other projects. The monies have not been spent in order to make the budget deficit appear smaller.

The majority of fatalities in San Francisco were equally predictable and could have been avoided.

Five people were killed when a curtain of bricks from a structurally unsound building fell on them. Banana Republic, a clothing company, had rented the building but vacated it in 1987 over structural safety questions. In legal proceedings between the company and the landlord, three different engineering firms filed reports confirming the dangers. Yet the owners fought the repair recommendations in court.

The news media here focused its attention on the wealthy Marina district of San Francisco. This area of posh homes, expensive apartments, and condominiums overlooking the bay was built on landfill. When the quake hit, many dwellings were damaged or destroyed and at least three people died.

Little mention was made of areas like Chinatown — the most densely populated section of San Francisco — where residents went without water and electricity for three days.

Some 1,000 quake victims who had been housed at the city's Moscone Convention Center were evicted October 23. A convention was scheduled to begin October 30. "We're being asked to move out as quickly as we possibly can, because they have paying customers," Chris Garrett of the Red Cross said. The quake victims were offered space at the Presidio army base or on board a navy ship.

President George Bush came to the Bay Area October 20. He briefly visited Oakland's destroyed Interstate 880 and the Presidio army base. Bush's six-helicopter entourage included three choppers full of media personnel. While he made no commitment of federal aid, Bush did extol the virtues of volunteer work and taped a commercial asking for financial contributions to a private relief fund.

An aide to California's Sen. Peter Wilson warned against expecting too much help from the federal government and said, "It's no substitute for earthquake insurance."

November 8 parole board hearing set for Mark Curtis

On November 8 Mark Curtis will have a parole hearing at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa. Curtis was informed that the prison classification committee will not recommend parole to the parole board. "We are working with Curtis' attorneys on this," John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, said.

Curtis, a Des Moines unionist and political activist, was arrested in March 1988 and severely beaten by city police, who called him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds."

On the day of his arrest Curtis had been deeply involved with coworkers in activities to protest an immigration raid at the Swift meat-packing plant. Seventeen of his Latino coworkers were picked up in the raid.

He was convicted and sentenced to a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary in September of that year.

Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and members of Curtis' family will be at the prison for the hearing. Defense committee activists are planning a press conference afterward.

Pathfinder

PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

Greg McCartan

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, Canada, and New Zealand, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made significant contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression.

Pathfinder bookstores are located in 43 cities in seven countries. The addresses of the bookstores are listed on page 12.

"This publication is the most complete proceedings of the founding congress [of the Communist International] published to date. It was prepared with great care," writes Ruth Stoljarowa.

Stoljarowa, of the Institute for Marxism-Leninism of the Central Committee of the East German communist party, gave this assessment in a review of Pathfinder's *Founding of the Communist International: Proceedings and Documents of the First Congress, March 1919*, for the institute's lecture service.

The book is the third in a series entitled *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*. The books document the proceedings of the first four congresses of the Communist International, or Comintern, held from 1919 to 1922. The series also covers preparatory work leading up to the founding congress and the activity of the Communist movement between congresses.

The 11 chapters on the first congress, Stoljarowa notes, "chronologically follow the course of the congress, and contain all stenographic records of the reports, discussions, and proposals of the delegates, the speeches and statements of the leading members of the presiding committee, the documents, appeals, and resolutions that were adopted, as well as written reports that were submitted."

She says, "This work is a valuable contribution to the further documentary assessment of the history of the Comintern, especially the accomplishments

of V.I. Lenin."

Supporters of Pathfinder in Sweden report that "plans for the Pathfinder bookstore in Stockholm are progressing." After having rented space, 100,000 kronor (US\$15,700) is being raised for renovation. The remodeling will take four to five weeks. An early December opening is planned.

Pathfinder sales in Iceland increased in September, with supporters there selling more than \$300 worth in books and pamphlets.

Pathfinder's titles in Icelandic were the highest sellers. These include a book of writings and speeches by the leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution, and a pamphlet containing the speech given by Cuban President Fidel Castro on the 20th anniversary of the death of Ernesto Che Guevara. Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban revolution, was assassinated 22 years ago in Bolivia where he was involved in a guerrilla struggle against the Bolivian military dictatorship.

In addition, books in English on women's rights, the class struggle in the United States, and the Cuban revolution were sold.

On a September sales trip to Germany, Robert Dees, in addition to visits to a number of bookstores around the country, stopped in the city of Darmstadt.

There he met with the buyer for Stars and Stripes bookstores on U.S. military bases in Europe. The bases already buy about 2,000 Pathfinder books a year.

After looking over the Pathfinder catalog the buyer ordered three additional titles — 300 of *The Last Year of Malcolm X*, 300 of *The Assassination of Malcolm X*, and 100 *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women*. GIs in Europe will now have even more Pathfinder titles available to read and study.

CALENDAR

FLORIDA

Miami

No Gains — No Planes. An eyewitness report from the Boeing strike in Seattle. Speaker: Jill Fein, member of International Association of Machinists District 751 on strike against Boeing. Sat., Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Des Moines

Conversation on Contemporary Cuban Art. Featuring Cuban painter Aldo Soler. Wed., Nov. 8, 8 p.m. Harmon Fine Arts Center, Drake University, 1309 26th St. Sponsors: Drake University Department of Art, Pathfinder Mural Project, Drake University Cultural Studies Program, International Center. For more information call (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

What's Behind the Stock Market Plunge: A Program to Fight the Coming Economic Crisis. Speaker: Jim Sarsgard, Socialist Workers Party, member American Federation of Government Employees Local 1923. Sat., Nov. 11. Dinner, 6 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner, \$3; forum, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

A Showing of the Pathfinder Mural Video. Fri., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

CANADA

Building socialism in Cuba: The ideas of Che Guevara

Hear Cuban economist
Carlos Tablada

author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*

Montréal

Sun., Nov. 5, 2 p.m. 1205 rue Visitation. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

Sat., Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m. 519 Church St. Community Center. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

Fri., Nov. 17, 7 p.m. Russian Hall, 600 Campbell. For more information call (604) 872-8343.

Speakers include: **Montréal:** Lourdes Urrutia, Cuban consul general; Eric Hernandez, president, Local 242, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Fred Michel, Carrefour culturel de l'amitié Québec-Cuba; **Toronto:** Pastor Valle-Garay, Sandinista National Liberation Front; Nadia Geith, president, Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association; Lennox Farrell, Rally Against Apartheid. **Vancouver:** Mike Barker, executive member, B.C. Hospital Employees Union; Dr. James Lindsay, past president, Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association, former health consultant to Cuban government; Roberto Aviles, Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front support group.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Detroit Mayoral Elections and the Coming Social Crisis. Speakers: John Powers, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor; others. Sun., Nov. 5, 7 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Abortion is a Woman's Right: All Out for the November 12 March. Speakers: Gloria Totten, director of Education for Abortion Rights, Twin Cities; Christine Evert, Mankato State University Young Socialist Alliance; Sylvia Giesbrecht, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 6803. Sun., Nov. 5, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Rally for the Hoover Family. In support of the Hoover family trial by jury set for Nov. 17. Speakers: Chokwe Lumumba, Hoover family's attorney from Jackson, Mississippi; Atanacio B. Gonzalez, executive director, Equal Rights Congress, Chicago. Tues., Nov. 14, 7 p.m. Central Baptist Church Educational Building, 2843 Washington St. Sponsor: St. Louis branch, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Equal Rights Congress of Chicago. For more information call (314) 521-6658.

The New Rise in Labor Militancy. Panel discussion with members of the United Mine Workers, Machinists, United Steelworkers, and United Auto Workers active in the Pittston Coal and Eastern strikes. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Rally in Defense of Mark Curtis. Speakers: Alfredo Alvarez, chairperson, Human Rights Commission, Des Moines; Wade Thomas, attorney; Marjorie Farmer, Ecumenical Hispanic Ministries; Hafeni Hatutale, South West Africa People's Organisation; Talonia, member Youth for Peace and Amnesty International; Johnny McGraw, steward, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 271; Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party; Tony Laravie, Native American Development Center; Rita Melgares, community activist. Sat., Nov. 4. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally 7 p.m. Chicano Awareness Center, 4825 S 24th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Freedom Struggle in South Africa and Namibia. Speakers: Kuiri Tjipangandjara, South West Africa People's Organisation; Wantu Zenzice, member African National Congress of South Africa; Valorie Caffee, president New Jersey Anti-apartheid Mobilization Committee; Karen Kopperud, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

The Root of Women's Oppression. Sat., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

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Chutzpah award of the year — In a counter to Alaska's suit against it, Exxon is suing the state for allegedly getting in the way of its alleged cleanup of the Valdez oil spill.



Harry Ring

Preview? — A power plant in Yorkshire, England, is showering neighboring villages with raw sewage.

age silt. Power stations suck cooling water from a river with a high sewage content and then push the stuff into the air as steam. With water resources now to be privatized, the government is allowing more sewage to be dumped in the river.

He's frustrated? — The asserted U.S. ban on the assassination of foreign officials was issued in 1975 by President Gerald Ford. At the time, the director of the CIA was George Bush.

He's pregnant? — On the eve of announcing his bid for governor of Connecticut, Rep. John Rowland re-

treated from his antiabortion stand. Asked why he changed positions, he replied, "I don't know."

The morality boy — "I'm not too proud of Hollywood these days with the immorality that is shown in pictures, and the vulgarity." — Ronald Reagan.

In case you forgot — The above is from a man who stole from the poor to further fatten the rich, bashed unions, promoted racism and sexism, waged a dirty, murderous war against Nicaragua, lied through his teeth about Contra

and other issues, and speculated that maybe trees cause pollution.

One for our side — Nicknamed Jeep after a comic strip character, Fred Molnar operates Jeep's bar in Alpine, Wyoming. That brought a big noise from Chrysler, which claims a copyright on the name. After stick-tough negotiations, Jeep made Chrysler back off, and also collected \$3,900 for his legal ex-

Just say no — "Incest is a voluntary act on the woman's part." — Charles Rice, Notre Dame University.

How much integrity can you have — Bulova is marketing a new line of sporty watches that, a spokesman said, has "what we call water integrity, meaning they are water resistant but not waterproof."

Gimme shelter — In 1987, 595 people with incomes averaging \$600,000 paid no federal income tax, legally.

Drives the boss crazy — A Gallup survey found extensive job-related stress, anxiety, and depression. The "most serious result," the pollsters said, is lower productivity.

Nicaragua gov't announces cease-fire suspension

Continued from front page

functioning of the elections, and a call for a November 6-7 meeting to be held at the United Nations.

The UN meeting would work out technical details of demobilization in accord with a recent agreement among Central American presidents to dismantle contra camps in Honduras by December 5. It would include the governments of Honduras and Nicaragua, the International Commission of Support and Verification — a body comprised of UN and Organization of American States representatives designated to oversee the demobilization and resettlement of contra forces — and a representative of the mercenaries.

During the 19-month period of the truce, 736 Nicaraguans have died. Nineteen Nicaraguan youths were killed October 21 in one of the most serious of recent contra actions. A group of army reservists on their way to register to vote, they were ambushed in central Nicaragua.

An October 30 contra action on a cattle cooperative in southeastern Nicaragua left four peasants dead and four wounded. The unarmed cooperative members awoke to the sound of shooting and cries of "Long live UNO," as some 50 mercenaries stormed their houses, sacking the cooperative and leveling one home completely. UNO is the coalition opposing the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in the February elections.

According to figures issued by Nicaragua's Ministry of Defense October 31, attacks by the contras have gone up from a monthly average of 110 to 150 since the beginning of this year.

Nicaraguan government estimates place 2,500 mercenaries in the country. Six hundred crossed the border last month, according to the international edition of *Barricada*, newspaper of the FSLN.

The International Commission on Support and Verification calculates there are 6,000 to 10,000 mercenaries in the Honduran camps.

At the Costa Rican news conference, Ortega said continuance of the truce "depends above all on the government of the United States," which has continued financing the contras, insisting on maintaining them on Honduran territory "for an indefinite amount

of time in order to continue exercising pressure on the Nicaraguan government."

The White House's response was to pledge continued financing to the contras through the February elections.

President George Bush, who also attended the Costa Rica meeting, referred to the Nicaraguan head of state as a "little man" and "an animal at a garden party."

On October 22 Ortega's office had issued a statement that energetic steps would be taken "in view of the increase of criminal attacks by armed counterrevolutionaries, which continue with the financing of the U.S. government and with the complicit support of political sectors that act inside the country as instruments of imperialist policy."

The reference to "political sectors" is to supporters of the election campaign of UNO (United National Opposition), which is running Violeta Chamorro for president against Ortega. UNO's election campaign has the open political and financial support of the Bush administration.

There have also been reports of contra harassment during the October registration drive for the February elections. Armed contras circulating in isolated areas have at-

La Prensa, principal voice of the UNO campaign, accused Ortega in an editorial of suspending the cease-fire to "terrorize UNO and force it to abandon the electoral struggle." Alfredo César, former contra political chief and now UNO campaign spokesman, said that Ortega's announcement was "a reflection that the Sandinistas feel they are losing" the race. It is aimed, he said, at "preparing the conditions to postpone or cancel the elections."

UNO has not condemned recent contra activity in Nicaragua nor the stalling on dismantling of the Honduran camps. An unsigned article in *La Prensa* referring to the deaths of the 19 reservists disclaimed any link between the opposition coalition and "the alleged contra attack." The article suggested that "resentful deserters from the Sandinista army" could have been involved in the ambush.

There have also been reports of contra harassment during the October registration drive for the February elections. Armed contras circulating in isolated areas have at-

tempted to intimidate peasants into supporting UNO.

Despite the national deployment of Sandinista troops to protect voter registration sites in the "war zones," some were unable to open on one or more of the four registration dates, leading the country's election council to designate an additional date in those areas for citizens who were unable to complete the procedure.

In a speech in the southern town of Rivas October 29, the Nicaraguan president responded to Bush's calling him "a little man."

"It's true that President Bush is tall," said Ortega. "He has a Gulliver complex, and shouldn't forget that the dwarf tied up Gulliver."

"It's possible that President Bush with his Gulliver complex looks upon Latin Americans as dwarfs, [but] he shouldn't forget that we are proud and dignified people," Ortega continued. "I feel proud to be a tiny little man of the great [Nicaraguan] people. I'd be ashamed to be a Gulliver Bush, bullying and doing damage to little countries."

Tens of thousands rally in South Africa

Continued from front page

Kaunda of Zambia. "We salute President Fidel Castro and the people of Cuba for the heroic role they have played in the fight against colonialism in this region," said Sisulu.

Sisulu described the deep and irreversible crisis facing Pretoria. "Today the ANC has captured the center stage of political life in South Africa," he said.

Sisulu recalled the numerous times throughout the history of the ANC that they called on the apartheid rulers to negotiate. "In spite of countless bitter experiences, we will not allow the past to stop us from constantly searching for the shortest possible path to freedom." He called on the government to create the climate for talks by, among other things, lifting the state of emergency, releasing all political prisoners, and unbanning political organizations. Sisulu added that "we see no clear indication that the government is serious about negotiations.

"There can be no question of us unilaterally abandoning the armed struggle," said Sisulu, bringing on a roar of cheers.

A statement by ANC President Oliver Tambo, read by activist Murphy Morobe, warned F.W. de Klerk, head of the Pretoria government, that if he perpetuates apartheid "he condemns himself to disappear forever into the dim mists of history together with the criminal system he will have sought to defend."

The apartheid regime approved the application for the rally a week earlier.

Numerous anti-apartheid protests and demonstrations have taken place without government intervention since mid-September. This is a result of unprecedented struggle inside South Africa and continuing international isolation.

The apartheid regime prohibited a march on October 28, however. Called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the demonstration was planned to protest the restrictive Labour Relations Act and demand the release of detained political activists in the Vaal area. Memorandums outlining the two demands were to be presented at the Vereeniging police station.

Internationally, the results came in from the October 18-22 Commonwealth meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to tighten financial pressure on South Africa. Further action was promised if after six months Pretoria fails to make changes to end apartheid.

Mahathir Mohamed, Malaysian prime minister and host of the summit, strongly favored the proposal to step up sanctions on the South African regime.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who, along with the other 48 member governments, had signed the Commonwealth declaration, then denounced it later in a separate statement.

Thatcher disagreed with four main points of the declaration. She refused to agree that sanctions had an impact on Pretoria's policies, to back proposals to extend financial

sanctions, support moves to strengthen the arms embargo against South Africa, or endorse the proposal to set up a body to monitor the impact of economic sanctions.

On October 18 the South African Reserve Bank announced it had negotiated a rescheduling of its \$8 billion debt coming due next June. Under the agreement Pretoria will have to pay about 20 percent of the debt in eight installment payments over a three-and-a-half-year period. The apartheid regime was seeking repayment over a 10-year period.

The ANC continues to demand total economic sanctions against the white-minority regime. In an October 17 interview, ANC leader Sisulu urged increased pressure on the regime. "We are calling for an intensification of economic sanctions and pressure, we are not going to tolerate delay," he said.

Abortion rights

Continued from front page

On October 26, however, the Michigan Senate approved a bill that would require women 17 years old and younger to obtain a parent's consent before having an abortion. A vote in the House is expected soon.

Two days earlier, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives voted to enact harsh new antiabortion regulations.

On October 25, Congress failed to override President George Bush's veto of a congressional measure to allow use of federal funds to pay for abortions for women whose pregnancy was a result of rape or incest. On October 27 Bush vetoed a budget measure for Washington, D.C., that would allow greater use of federal and local funds by the city to pay for abortions for poor women. The District of Columbia's budget is controlled by Congress.

The Mobilization for Women's Lives will be at the Lincoln Memorial; assembly time is 11:00 a.m., and the rally begins at 12:00 noon. Participants are encouraged to wear purple and white. For more information, contact NOW at (202) 331-0066.

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Holding the jobs of 130,000 auto workers hostage, Chrysler and its government accomplices have gotten away with a crime against the United Auto Workers and the entire labor movement.

The UAW's new three-year contract with Chrysler:

- defers \$200 million in pension payments,
- delays cost-of-living payments and wage increases,
- calculates benefits on a lower base wage rate, and
- denies Chrysler workers additional paid time off during the first year.

In addition to these givebacks, which reportedly save Chrysler \$403 million at its employees' expense, UAW President Douglas Fraser is offering to loan the company the union's \$850 million pension fund. He also says he will submit future Chrysler contracts to a government board for approval if the company's financial problems persist.

To cap it off, Fraser is joining Chrysler's

board of directors.

All this is to show that the UAW "is doing its part to prevent corporate failure," says Fraser. In return the government is supposed to fork over millions of tax dollars to bail out Chrysler.

But for Chrysler workers there is:

- No guarantee to rehire the 30,000 already laid off,
- No guarantee against more layoffs, plant closings, and speedup.

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Nov. 9, 1979

In a stunning hit-and-run attack a week ago, a handful of daring Vietnamese guerrillas cost Washington at least \$25 million. They destroyed five and damaged 15 more B-57 bombers. According to Gen. William Westmoreland, chief of U.S. intervention forces, the guerrillas were apparently using mortar ammunition captured from the French during the Indo-Chinese war before 1954.

Respect Nicaragua's sovereignty

"All of us, both parties — across the political spectrum — are not going to put up with this outrage."

These words by U.S. Sen. Robert Dole followed the unanimous 95-to-0 Senate vote October 31 condemning the announcement by President Daniel Ortega that the Nicaraguan government was considering suspending its unilateral cease-fire with the U.S.-backed contras. On November 1 the cease-fire was suspended.

The Senate vote is the latest in a series of moves by Washington aimed at politically isolating, continuing the economic and military aggression against, and challenging the sovereignty of Nicaragua.

Ortega's October 27 announcement at a meeting of American heads of state in Costa Rica comes in the context of escalating attacks inside Nicaragua by the contras.

The contras are aiming to intimidate Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) supporters from voting in national elections scheduled for February 25.

In the latest in a series of attacks on civilians, the contras ambushed and killed 19 FSLN supporters on their way to register to vote.

As part of a regional peace accord signed by the five Central American presidents, the contras are to be demobilized and moved out of Honduras to Nicaragua or a third country by December 5. The accords also call for an end to military aid to "irregular forces in the region."

The Nicaraguan government unilaterally declared a cease-fire in March 1988. Since then the contras have killed 736 people, injured 1,153, and kidnapped 1,481.

A bipartisan package put together last April in Washington supplies the contras with \$49 million in assistance until the February elections. Congress has the power to cut the aid off at the end of November.

But, in violation of the accords, the demobilization of the contras has not begun. A commission established by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations bluntly told the contras to get out of Honduras. The statement was criticized by Secretary of State James Baker and UN Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar. Both stressed that the demobilization should be voluntary.

Just days before the recent Costa Rica meeting the Bush administration extended the U.S. trade embargo, established in 1985, against Nicaragua.

The embargo is part of Washington's war on Nicaragua. Dominated for decades by U.S. imperialism, Nicaragua was made dependent on the United States for trade,

medical supplies, machinery, spare parts for everything from cars to industrial and farm equipment, and a host of other social and economic essentials.

In addition the U.S. government has launched an extensive campaign of direct interference in the Nicaraguan elections.

On October 22 Bush signed legislation, supported by both the Democrats and Republicans in Congress, providing \$9 million in aid for the elections in Nicaragua, \$4 million of which will go directly to the United National Opposition, the main opposition coalition to the FSLN.

Hundreds of international observers from the UN and the OAS have descended on Nicaragua to supervise every aspect of the voting process. The UN contingent is headed by Elliot Richardson, holder of numerous cabinet and ambassadorial positions in three U.S. presidential administrations, including the post of secretary of defense. Another "observer" team is headed by former U.S. president James Carter.

These moves have not only been supported by a majority in both parties, but there has been no sign of opposition in Congress to continuing contra aid past the November cutoff point, extending the embargo, or delaying the demobilization of the contras.

White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater arrogantly stated, "We are obviously urging that the cease-fire be maintained and that they proceed to free and fair elections."

Washington maintains it has the right to declare whether the elections are "free and fair" while directly interfering — both politically and militarily — against a sovereign country.

Outraged that Nicaraguans would consider defending themselves against the escalating contra attacks, Bush let loose a tirade of racist abuse, calling Ortega "a little man," and likening him to "an animal at a garden party."

Ortega told Bush "he shouldn't forget that we are a proud and dignified people."

These arrogant and aggressive moves by the U.S. government should be met with protest around the world by all supporters of the right of the Nicaraguan people to control their own country.

We should demand:

- an end to all support to the contras;
- lifting of the criminal economic embargo;
- a halt to all U.S. government interference in Nicaragua's election process.

Stool pigeons and 'snitch jackets'

BY DOUG JENNESS

There was a time when hunters in this country would fasten a live pigeon to a perch to attract other birds. Hidden nearby, the fowler would either shoot the prey or throw a net over it. The decoy came to be known as a stool pigeon.

The term was subsequently picked up by gamblers to figuratively refer to a decoy in their employ. But its most common usage today refers to agents or informers in the pay of the cops or detective agencies.

For many decades working people, fighting for their unions and their rights, have had to confront stool pigeons

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

or "stoolies" planted in their ranks by the bosses and cops. And we can expect the employers will continue and even step up this nefarious practice as the conflict between them and working people sharpens.

Workers despise stool pigeons and when they discover these decoys, they are not inclined to deal with them kindly. One of the prized tricks of the employers and the cops, who never cease their war against union militants and political activists in the working class, is to attempt to manipulate the hatred workers have for informers. They plant false evidence or suspicions that a union activist or member of a political organization is a stoolie. With this deceit they hope to turn worker against worker and stir up conflicts and distrust, thus undermining the attempts of workers to create a solid front against the employers. The cops refer to this as putting a "snitch jacket" on someone.

Last month, when the Justice Department paid \$170,000 in damages to Lillie Albertson, I was reminded of a particularly nasty case where this was used. The Albertson story is worth recalling for the many lessons it holds.

In 1964 William Albertson, a 30-year veteran of the Communist Party and a member of the party's national committee, was expelled from the organization in disgrace as a stool pigeon. Because of their relation to him, his mother and his wife, Lillie, were expelled too.

The evidence against Albertson consisted of a single document made to look like an informer's report. It was found in a car in which the CP leader had been a passenger. It was in handwriting that resembled Albertson's and was signed "Bill."

CP officials said they checked the document with a handwriting expert who confirmed it was Albertson's writing. A statement by party leaders printed in the July 7 and July 12, 1964, issues of *The Worker* claimed that "the facts accumulated remove every shadow of doubt that Albertson lived a life of duplicity and treachery."

Albertson said he was innocent and fought until his death in 1972 for his reinstatement, protesting to the end that the FBI had framed him.

Then, in 1975, when the FBI was forced to release a large batch of documents relating to one of its seven Cointelpros (counterintelligence programs), a five-page report dated Jan. 6, 1965, revealed that through the FBI's efforts Albertson had been expelled from the CP. The agent boasted that "this expulsion crippled the activities of the New York State communist organization and the turmoil within the party continues to this date."

Lillie Albertson sued the government for damages under the federal claims law. The Justice Department responded that it couldn't contest the suit without compromising state secrets, hence the case should be dismissed. Up through the Court of Appeals the government's request was rejected. In October the case was settled out of court before it could be heard in the Supreme Court. The government awarded Lillie Albertson the \$170,000, and she agreed to withdraw her suit.

The Albertson case was far from being the only instance of the FBI putting a snitch jacket on a political activist. Documents released to the Socialist Workers Party in the 1970s after it filed a lawsuit against FBI spying and disruption revealed a number of attempts to try this against the SWP.

Planting suspicions that SWP members were informers, however, did not reward the FBI with the same success as the Albertson affair had. The reason is that the SWP refused to be lured into conducting an internal hunt for agents based on hearsay and rumors; anonymous notes, telephone calls, or tapes; or any other such "evidence." The destructive consequences of a witch-hunt inside a political organization are far more damaging than the information an entire covey of stool pigeons could find out.

Another lesson the Albertson case brings home is that the opinion of handwriting experts is worthless. The overwhelming majority of these "experts" operate in the orbit of the capitalist courts and police system. Their principal clientele are police agencies and private detectives, scarcely a recommendation deserving confidence.

In building a movement that can effectively combat the employers, workers learn not to be sidetracked or disrupted by stool pigeons or snitch jackets, any more than we are by the employers' lies, legal tricks, or violence.

Vote Socialist Workers Nov. 7!

Continued from front page

stock market dive, a downturn in the business cycle, or major bank failure, threatens to precipitate a major economic collapse.

There is no way working people can prevent the economic and social crisis that is coming nor insulate themselves as individuals from it. What will be needed is collective action. Workers and farmers will have to defend themselves by fighting to maintain their unions, rights, and standard of living. SWP candidates, most of whom are factory workers and union members, have been part of the struggles that aim to do that.

They've been an active part of the strikes against Eastern Airlines and Pittston Coal Group; the walkout by workers at Boeing; and demonstrations for housing, affirmative action, and in defense of abortion rights. They've joined protests denouncing U.S. intervention in Panama and calling for Puerto Rican independence.

In the course of these struggles and others, socialist candidates have raised proposals around which broad layers of working people can fight, a fight whose results can help unify the working class.

As unemployment gets worse, a struggle to combat it can be mounted by demanding that the government shorten the workweek from 40 to 30 hours with no reduction in pay.

Increasing inflation can be fought with cost-of-living escalators in wages and government payments to the unemployed, retirees, and others.

SWP candidates have stressed the need to defend affirmative action and to fight to extend these special measures to help overcome existing inequalities among working people.

They have called for a fight to cancel the soaring debt Third World countries owe to bankers in the imperialist countries.

The socialist candidates have explained that as these struggles deepen and millions of workers move into action to defend our interests, the question of governmental power will be posed. Fights waged by working people will broaden, challenging capitalist rule itself.

Cuba is the country socialist candidates have pointed to as an example for workers to consider. Even under conditions of economic backwardness and underdevelopment, working people in Cuba have made impressive gains and continue to advance their revolution along a course benefiting the overwhelming majority. And they help explain to working people internationally that socialism is the only road out of the horrors of capitalism.

On November 7 we urge a vote for the following SWP candidates (* on ballot, others write-in):

- Cleveland — David Marshall for mayor.
- Greensboro, North Carolina — Yvonne Hayes for mayor.*
- Detroit — John Powers for mayor.
- Houston — Greg Rosenberg for mayor,* Mary Pritchard for 18th Congressional District.
- New York — James Harris for mayor,* Jerry Freiwirth for city council president,* Vivian Sahner for city comptroller,* Tom Fiske for Manhattan borough president, Patty Iiyama for Brooklyn borough president, Greg McCartan for Manhattan district attorney, and Jon Hillson for city council, 6th District.
- New Jersey — Cathy Sedwick for governor,* Ernest Mailhot for State Assembly, 28th Legislative District.*
- Philadelphia — Kibwe Diarra for comptroller, Emily Fitzsimmons for district attorney.
- Price, Utah — Judy Stranahan for mayor.*
- Seattle — Robbie Scherr for mayor.

This doesn't mean the fight ends after the first week of November. Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance will continue to be part of struggles on the picket lines and in the streets. They will continue to get out socialist ideas to as many working people as possible in the plants, mines, and railroads; on street corners; and at public events.

The Socialist Workers Party will field candidates throughout the country in 1990, and two have already announced their campaigns. Dick McBride, in Morgantown, West Virginia, will run for U.S. Senate and Wendy Lyons, in St. Paul, Minnesota, will run for governor.

We urge you to join in supporting these campaigns.

Students against racism

I was one of 200 students who marched against racial violence at the State University of New York at New Paltz. The October 16 action was called to protest the arrest last July of seven Black students for playing a radio "too loudly" in a campus dining hall.

They were brutally beaten by the campus and the town cops. Two of the students said police with T-24 riot sticks used chokeholds on them. One student's leg was injured after a cop slammed a car door on it.

The students are charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and obstruction of governmental business.

Activists from SUNY in Albany, Binghamton, Stony Brook, Farmingdale, Purchase, and from Vassar College joined those at New Paltz to express their outrage. Chants of "No justice, no peace," "USA, have you heard, this is not Johannesburg," and "Drop the charges" filled the air in front of the courthouse where the accused were being arraigned behind closed doors.

The court has granted a 30-day postponement of the trial despite the objection of the students' lawyers. The students and their supporters view these delays as an attempt to "tire out" the protesters. The crowd met this with a decisive response: "We are not tired. We will never get tired!"

Eva Braiman
Binghamton, New York

Earthquake

The day after the Bay Area earthquake, Jameel Ahmad, chairman of the civil engineering department at Cooper Union college in New York, was interviewed on the program "MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour."

Discussing the collapse of sections of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and I-880, Ahmad explained some of the financial constraints imposed on structural engineers in the United States. "We have limited budgets," he said. "We could build one bridge that can withstand a tremendous earthquake, but then we would not have money left over to build other bridges."

Ahmad recommended that the top tiers of all California freeways and bridges near fault lines be removed. "You have to question the wisdom of a two-tier bridge in an earthquake zone," he told Robert MacNeil.

Contrary to what government reports coming out of California claim, Ahmad believes engineers cannot yet adequately retrofit the columns of two-tier bridges and freeways to roll with the quakes.

Janet Post
Portland, Oregon

Exploited prison labor

Gov. Mario Cuomo recently signed legislation to build 13 new prisons in New York. There are currently some 57 prisons in the state, the majority of them located in upstate rural areas. The governor claims that the new prisons are part of his anticrime and antidrug program.

But the real reason is labor exploitation. Corcraft, New York's Correctional Industries program, is a multibillion dollar consortium and has become the major industry for upstate rural New York. Public officials have opted to build prisons and install industries in them to be operated by prisoners at extremely meager wages.

Take for example Auburn State Prison where I am incarcerated. Prisoners at Auburn manufacture all license plates for New York State and the prison even accepts out-of-state orders. More than 1,000 license plates are produced each day in this industry. In return for their hard labor, prisoners are paid from 16

cents to \$1.50 an hour in a 40-hour workweek.

From the production and sales of these plates alone, prison officials gross an average of \$18 million annually. Other prisons employ prisoners to make such things as soap, mattresses, pillows, bed lining, office furniture and equipment, clothing, eye glasses, traffic and office signs, American flags, and a host of other state-used products.

Corcraft also operates Ultra-Frame, a modular office landscaping system where prisoners produce plush office equipment. Each fiscal year Corcraft will gross an average of \$80 million from the production and sales of all state prison-made products.

Under state law, prison officials can sell products only to the state or to any public institution owned or managed by the state. But in the past there have been claims that prison officials were selling these products to private entrepreneurs.

At the Arthur Kill State Prison on Staten Island, and at the Bayview Women's State Prison in New York City, a new program recently went into effect that allowed the Department of Motor Vehicles to use prisoners to answer telephoned questions from the public. The prisoners, who process some 10,000 calls a day, receive an average of 48 cents an hour for this work.

It is interesting to note that upstate rural communities once opposed to having prisons built in their communities now are actually lobbying and holding "straw polls" to determine which community will be "awarded" a prison. The existence of a prison would mean more jobs, homes, free water and sewer lines, and taxes for these economically depressed communities.

A prisoner
Auburn, New York

Appreciates coverage

I would like to thank you for adding me to your prisoners' subscription list. Each week I look forward to reading your great, unbiased, and very informative paper.

I would like to commend you on your coverage of Cuba, socialism, and the labor movement all over the world. Keep up the great work.

A prisoner
Auburn, New York

Old Havana

I was delighted to read *The Many Lives of Old Havana*, by Joseph Judge in the August issue of National Geographic.

In 1981 I met a family living in one of Havana's old buildings and especially remember the ceiling, which was supported by large, temporary posts.

On my second visit I stayed at the family's new apartment in Alamar, a housing complex the father, Ortelio, had helped build as a minibrigade volunteer. The six-room apartment was well appointed, with plenty of space for the two children and two grandmothers. The old apartment, meanwhile, is waiting its turn to be renovated for daughter Marianita's new family.

Judge mentions the support given by UNESCO to the restoration of Old Havana. Former president Ronald Reagan cited this project as one of his many reasons for cutting all U.S. funds to UNESCO.

Judge also notes that "visits by Americans are severely restricted under an embargo imposed by the United States in 1962." While the trade embargo has always remained in place, during the Carter administration travel restrictions by the U.S. government were lifted, and thousands of U.S. citizens visited Cuba.

Perhaps Reagan reimposed the restrictions because what we saw was inspiring. Now only those who are professional researchers of



Mike Peters

Cuban subjects, journalists, Cuban family members, and guests of the government are allowed to travel to Cuba.

In addition, the U.S. State Department routinely restricts visas to Cubans invited to visit the United States.

Claudia Hommel
Brooklyn, New York

Gun control, cops, prisons

In the Second Amendment to the Constitution, it clearly states, "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." How much clearer can a position be stated? Any infringement upon this right is a clear violation of the Constitution of the United States and should be declared null and void.

Today there is a rage circulating in the mass media concerning the banning or restricting of automatic or semiautomatic weapons. Who will be restricted and who will remain in possession of these banned armaments? Will the average working-class people be restricted and cops remain above the law?

Today we are facing economic circumstances that include a declining standard of living, increasing unemployment, drastic inequities in social services and income levels, and the highest per capita prison population of any industrialized nation in the world.

This is the gist of my argument: that until you disarm the cops, don't disarm me. I believe the colorful war on drugs to be merely a colorful war, a means to beef up the cops, build more prisons, and increase the air of official violence upon the most resolute and potentially explosive segment of the U.S. population, the poor and dispossessed.

I believe that if the leaders of this country really wanted to fight drugs the best way to do so would be to replace hopelessness with hope by guaranteeing a job for everyone at a living, above poverty line wage (we know there are plenty of jobs to be done); decent, cheap housing; medical services for everyone; and an equitable education for everyone, as far as an individual has the desire to go.

Replace the present profit-oriented public policy with one based on human needs and desires: people not profits! Let the chips fall where they may. Whatever economic system that evolves upon the initiation of such programs, let it come. At least it will be one that places human needs as our number one goal and mission in society.

Ed Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

Waste dump protest

With signs and T-shirts reading, "Hell no, we won't glow," "Cukes, not nukes," and "Riga is farmland, not wasteland," referring to the Michigan township, hundreds of angry farmers and community residents as well as unionists rallied in Blissfield in southeastern Michigan. Another rally was held in Yale, north of Detroit.

Organized by newly formed ad hoc committees, Citizens for Rural Awareness and Don't Waste Michi-

gan, the protesters denounced plans by the state of Michigan to locate a "low level" nuclear waste dump in the state.

Michigan was selected by a seven-state Midwest compact to be the site of a 4-million-cubic-foot radioactive waste dump. Ninety-five percent of the waste would come from nuclear power plants in this region.

Last year massive protests by several thousand farmers and rural residents forced the state to look for alternative sites to Hillsdale, also in southern Michigan.

After the Blissfield meeting of 1,000 on October 18, more than a dozen committees of 20 to 40 people were formed to carry out educational events and mobilize up to 10,000 for a march on the state capitol in Lansing. In blasting Democratic Gov. James Blanchard's support for the dump, farmers have pointed out that they would be unable to sell their pickles, corn, soybeans, or potatoes if consumers knew they were grown in the area around the nuclear dump — and rightfully so.

The mass protest meeting, like the one of 2,000 in Yale October 22, heard reports by antinuclear and environmental activists. They explained that low-level radiation exposure causes lung and bone cancer, leukemia, premature aging, and birth defects.

Detroit Air Transport Machinists' Local 141 President Robert Fettig sent a message of support to the rally in Yale. "The Machinists union," he wrote, "has a proud history of opposition to nuclear power and weapons, and the unsafe disposal of waste."

"The cause of environmental issues — the saving of our planet — is of extreme importance for the unions to take up. As working people and farmers gathered here today, it is up to us to make sure that this unsafe and hazardous waste dump be stopped. We do not wish this dump site on any community."

Mark Friedman
Detroit, Michigan

National health care

It is time for the workers to unite and fight the attacks of the haves against the have nots. National, state, and local labor leaders must become more militant. The cause is health care and its high cost to the working class.

Each union local should be the voice for a national health-care system in this country. True, they must defend local health benefits, but there is a better way. One way to do this is for the AFL-CIO to shout out for national health care by calling a one-day strike by all workers in the United States. They should proclaim this cause in print, as well as radio and TV.

David Wilson
Athens, Ohio

New Directions

The founding national conference of the New Directions Movement, held in St. Louis October 20-22, drew 550 people. The gathering, which included many former and current union officials, decided to

set up a formal opposition caucus within the United Auto Workers union.

Speakers at the conference included Jerry Tucker, past director of UAW Region 5; Don Douglas, president of GM Bus and Truck Local 594 in Pontiac, Michigan; retired former UAW official Victor Reuther; Teamsters for a Democratic Union head Ken Paff; Sam Ginden, research director for the Canadian Auto Workers; and Brad Burton, midwest regional director of the United Mine Workers of America. Both Tucker and Douglas were defeated in their bids for UAW regional directorships at the June UAW convention.

The conference adopted a national constitution and by-laws for the new organization and elected 28 officers to the National Organizing Committee. Jerry Tucker was elected national organizing coordinator.

The conference also passed a resolution calling for support to workers on strike against Pittston coal company, Eastern Airlines, NYNEX telephone company, Boeing, and Borg-Warner company in Muncie, Indiana. The resolution urged conference participants to organize plant-gate collections and other acts of solidarity when they return home.

Most participants came from Missouri and Michigan, where the New Directions group has been most active. Many were from General Motors plants, but other departments of the UAW were represented as well, including agricultural implements, aerospace, and independent parts.

TDU leader Ken Paff gave the main presentation at the conference. The TDU has grown to become an important group in the Teamsters union, he said, through a series of legal suits against the past Teamsters' leadership. These suits "opened the union up," he explained, and made it more possible to challenge contract ratification votes and run for union posts. Paff's talk was well received by conference participants.

Workshop topics included organizing New Directions; fighting toxic waste dumps; organizing democratic elections for union office; legal rights of unionists; and fighting union-management cooperation schemes, especially the "team concept." Participants pledged and donated \$20,000 to New Directions.

Jeff Powers
Detroit, Michigan

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Socialist campaigns reach thousands

Greensboro textile worker promotes fight for unity

BY RICH STUART

GREENSBORO, N.C. — "I see two Greensboros: a Greensboro of the wealthy business interests that run this city and a Greensboro of the working people who are the victims of the capitalist system."

This is what thousands of TV viewers heard Yvonne Hayes say on the "Good Morning Show" here October 24. Hayes, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union at the big Cone Mills textile mill here, is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. She is running against incumbent mayor Victor Nussbaum, the only other candidate in the race.

Hayes has focused on explaining the crisis engulfing more and more working people internationally. She has promoted the ideas in *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, a Pathfinder pamphlet. The Action Program calls for a fight to unify the working class around three central demands: shorten the workweek with no cut in pay as a solution to unemployment; affirmative action for oppressed minorities and women; and cancellation of the Third World debt.

'Cancel the debt'

The day after Hayes' TV appearance, the *Greensboro News and Record* reported on a candidates' forum of 100 sponsored by the Sierra Club and Audubon Society, two large environmental groups. The paper reported, "Devin Oldendick, speaking for mayoral candidate Yvonne Hayes, said canceling the Third World debt would help the environment by decreasing pressure on debtor nations to exploit their natural resources, such as rain forests."

At an October 5 candidates' forum of the Guilford County Alliance for Black Concerns, most of the candidates responded to the issue of drugs by calling for more police. But the morning paper wrote, "Mayoral candidate Yvonne Hayes said more officers in the Black community will result in more police brutality." Hayes said the so-called war on drugs is actually a war on working people, from Greensboro to Panama.

Speaking for Hayes at a special candidates' meeting at Bennett College, a Black women's

college here, Greensboro Socialist Workers Party Chairperson Sherrie Love addressed the meeting's theme of recent assaults on women students by emphasizing the social roots of physical, political, and economic attacks on women and their rights. Love stressed the need for affirmative action for women to allow them to participate as equal human beings in jobs, school, and politics, as well as the importance of the fight for the right of women to control their own bodies, especially the right to abortion.

Eastern strikers' meeting

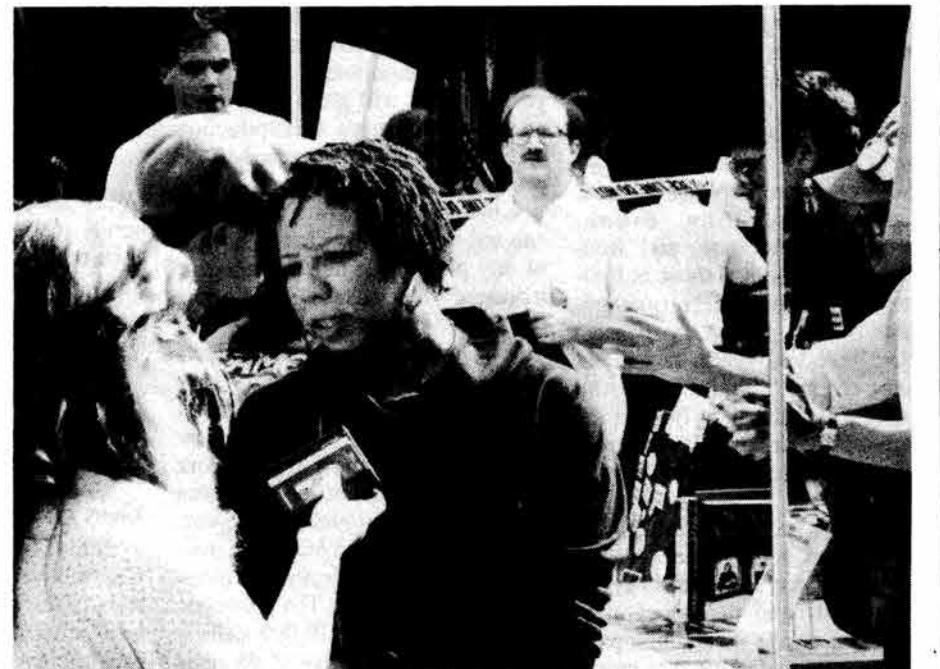
Hayes spoke to the October 9 meeting of the International Association of Machinists, which represents striking Eastern Airlines workers in Greensboro. She reported on her visit to Virginia to support striking Pittston coal miners and urged the Eastern strikers to link their strike with that of the miners. The local is planning to visit the mine workers' Camp Solidarity soon.

A rail worker who is a member of the Transportation Communication Union at Southern Railway hosted a fund-raiser for the campaign at his house, raising more than \$200. And Hayes' filing fee of \$75 for ballot status was largely paid by her textile mill coworkers.

The socialist candidate also spoke to a student meeting at the University of North Carolina — Greensboro sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance. Susan, a women's rights activist, decided to join the YSA and work on the campaign. Greensboro YSA Chairperson David Warshawsky spoke for Hayes at Trinity Zion AME Church.

Alice, a student campaigner at Grimsley High School, said she supports the socialist campaign because Hayes "represents the reality of working-class people and their concerns, whereas most politicians are merely tools of big business."

In the final days of the campaign, Hayes and her supporters plan to campaign at area plant gates, a public talk by Hayes at the University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill and an election night celebration of the campaign's success in reaching thousands with the SWP's views.



Cathy Sedwick, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey, was interviewed at October 15 abortion rights march in Trenton. Sedwick, an electronics worker, has received coverage in the *Trentonian*, *Atlantic City Daily Journal*, *Newark Star-Ledger*, and *Jersey City Reporter*, as well as on television and radio.

Houston Machinist demands 'Shut South Africa consulate'

BY AL BUDKA

HOUSTON — "Rosenberg is the youngest — 23 years old — and the most radical candidate, a member of the Socialist Workers Party."

"A member of the International Association of Machinists, Rosenberg has called for increased taxation of wealthy individuals and corporations, a reduction in the workweek to 30 hours with no reduction in pay as a way to create millions of jobs, and closing South Africa's consulate in Houston as a blow to apartheid."

This is how the *Houston Post*, one of the two major dailies here, began its coverage of a televised debate between four candidates for mayor of Houston.

The *Post* article continued with a brief description of the socialist candidate's call for a federally funded public works program to provide jobs rebuilding what capitalism has destroyed and his opposition to the proposals for a so-called war on drugs that have been raised by other candidates. "Their solutions are more cops and more jails. I am opposed to both," the *Post* quoted Rosenberg.

"I am using my campaign to encourage

working people to unite in their own interests," continues the *Post* quote, "I favor an affirmative action plan with quotas for Blacks, Latinos, and women in hiring and education."

The *Post* article was on the front page of a special election section in the Sunday, October 15 edition and included a color photograph of the candidates.

This was the second television appearance for the socialist candidate within a week. On October 11 Rosenberg was interviewed for 15 minutes on the television program *Almanac*. Rosenberg is running with Mary Pritchard, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress.

The television audience for the debate was mainly high school students. The minute the debate ended Rosenberg was surrounded by students asking questions. Eleven signed up to get more information or to set up a meeting for the socialist candidate.

One group of students invited the SWP candidate to speak at Yates High, an almost all-Black school in central Houston. In three separate sessions at Yates, Rosenberg met with more than 150 students.

Auto Worker joins debate on political power in Detroit

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD

DETROIT — A controversy has erupted in the mayoral race over the question of "Black political power" in this city, where a majority of the population is Black.

In the September nonpartisan primary, the most votes for a city council candidate went to Maryann Mahaffey, a liberal Democrat who is white. The candidate receiving the highest vote becomes city council president and steps into the office of mayor should the mayor be unable to complete the term of office.

Detroit has had a mayor who is Black for the past 16 years. And it is likely that this pattern will continue because both the "major" candidates, as the media describes the two leading contenders, are Black. They are incumbent Coleman Young and Thomas Barrow.

Following the primary two prominent figures in the city who are Black, Councilman Clyde Cleveland and clergyman James Holley, publicly stated that the "Black political base" that has been built over the past two decades will be threatened by a Mahaffey victory in the general election.

Their statements brought a rain of protests. A group of ministers in the Black community said they would picket Holley's church if he did not retract his statements, which they charged were racist. The Metropolitan Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Congressman George Crockett; and others defended Mahaffey's running in the race.

Several days after Holley's first statement, the windows in his church were broken and extensive damage done. Other churches in the same neighborhood were vandalized.

The controversy generated by Holley's remarks is being widely discussed by working people here.

Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate John Powers, an auto worker, has been explaining his position on the questions raised by Holley and Cleveland during his meetings and through distribution of a statement that he has issued.

Powers immediately condemned the violent racist attack against Holley's church and other churches and called for the apprehension and prosecution of those responsible. "Only in an atmosphere free from threats and intimidation" can we discuss the critical is-

sues facing working people and such questions as those posed by Holley and Cleveland, he said.

Powers states that he defends the democratic right to representation by Blacks. At the same time, he says, for many years the mayor's office and the majority of the city council and the board of education in Detroit have been held by Democrats who are Black.

Yet, the conditions for most working people in Detroit, the majority of whom are Black, hasn't gotten better, Powers explains. On top of countless plant closings, the unemployment figure for the city's working-age population is 51.3 percent, he says. Of a population of slightly less than a million, the Detroit/Wayne County Homeless Union estimates that 65,000 are homeless.

Recent figures, Powers states, put the city's infant mortality rate close to that of Honduras, one of the world's poorest countries.

"There have been a few Blacks who have benefited during Mayor Young's tenure," he said. "They are the owners of the small number of Black businesses that have won contracts from the city and the few Blacks who have been able to secure high-paying posts."

In a statement issued by Powers, the auto unionist explains that the main beneficiaries of the city administration have been the owners of the "Big Three" auto companies — Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler — and other major corporations. Through actions by the mayor and city council these corporations have gotten tax breaks and direct assistance, at the expense of the city's working people.

The statements by Holley and Cleveland, Powers states, don't appeal to the common interests that Black, white, Arab, and Latino workers share against the big bankers and factory owners.

Moreover, the stock market crash in October 1987, and the current instability in the stock market, Powers explains, signal the coming of a depression and massive social crisis. The devastating consequences for working people — Black and white — will not be able to be solved by capitalist politicians whether they are white or Black, liberal or conservative, Democratic or Republican.

"The way forward for Blacks and other working people," Powers concludes, "lies in building a movement that fights to meet the needs of working people in Detroit, throughout the country, and internationally."